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Cops seek suspect in bank heist

DYE Ottawa police are seeking a man who may be stained with red ink after a south-end bank was robbed Tuesday.

At around 7:05 p.m., a lone male entered a TD Canada Trust located in the 1700 block of Kilborn Avenue, police said Wednesday.

A note making a demand for cash was passed, and the man made off with a small amount of cash and a dye pack.

Police are seeking a Caucasian male, 20 to 25 years of age, six feet tall with a medium build. Because of the dye pack, his clothing and/or skin may be stained with red ink.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
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Metro

Look for our special Boxing Day issue Saturday. We will resume publishing Monday, Jan 4.

Style pg 16

Best and worst of '09

On the web
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TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Years of work came together to create a productive 2009 for the city of Ottawa, said Mayor Larry O'Brien. When asked if he would seek re-election in 2010, he said he would "consider my options over the holidays."

Good year for Ottawa, says mayor

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

It was a year that saw new funding for a transit system, a fresh start for Lansdowne Park and a plan to revamp the city's economic development plan.

And as the curtain comes down on 2009, the mayor said it was a good year for the city of Ottawa.

"The end of the year was the highlight for me," Mayor Larry O'Brien said Wednesday, referring to the $600-million provincial funding announcement for the city's transit plan.

"After public security and safety of the residents, the next most important priority for municipal council is the prosperity of its citizens, and the most important tool we have initially is the public transportation system," he said. "I think we have that one licked now."

Another highlight for the year is Lansdowne Park.

"After decades of neglect, (it) is finally moving ahead," he said.

In addition to transit and Lansdowne, a new priority for 2010 is refreshing the city's economic development plan, O'Brien said.

Also of note this year was the land the city donated to Algonquin College and La Cité collégiale for their skills training facilities.

The year was not without its challenges.

The mayor's three-month trial for influence peddling — charges for which he was found not guilty — "was a political mugging I could have done without," said O'Brien.

Then there was the H1N1 pandemic, which medical officer of health Dr. Isra Levy and his staff handled "sparklingly well."

But the provincial funding for transit was the perfect ending to the year.

"It's a game changer for the city of Ottawa," he said.

2010 may be Canada's watershed year in Afghanistan

WAR Canada is heading into what is supposed to be its last full year of combat in Kandahar, just as the U.S. pours thousands more troops into the embattled province in what experts believe will be the ultimate showdown with the Taliban.

The increased fighting is expected to unfold against a backdrop of a widening political controversy in Ottawa over the alleged torture of Afghan prisoners early in the war, what the Conservative government knew about it, and what it did to stop it.

There is no denying 2010 will be the watershed year in the eight-year-old Afghan conflict.

NATO's top commander and architect of the rebooted war strategy said recently it will be the end of 2010 before the allies know if they are winning or losing.

The Conservative government and war-weary Canadians will have a choice to make whether they like it or not: Stick to the country's self-imposed 2011 withdrawal date and perhaps risk alienating the Obama administration; continue with the reconstituted war effort; or find some other way to remain meaningfully involved.

Everyone from Prime Minister Stephen Harper on down has taken pains to emphasize that the strategy is to remain involved, but out of combat. It's a position critics question, given Kandahar's tenuous security.

But while Canadian soldiers head into what could be their decisive year, the attention in Ottawa will be fixed at least initially on the Conservative government's management of prisoners and their possible torture in Afghan jails during the critical early years of the war.

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Local

Holiday hours for Ottawa police

Ottawa police announced holiday hours for their east- and west-end stations. While the stations at 4561 Bank St. and 211 Huntmar Dr. close at 4 p.m. Christmas Eve and remain closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Dec. 27, the stations at 3343 St. Joseph Blvd. and 245 Greenbank Rd. are open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Christmas, Boxing Day and Dec. 27. The Ottawa police headquarters at 474 Elgin St. remains open 24 hours for the duration of the holiday period. METRO OTTAWA

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

City man faces charges after man stabbed

COURT A 37-year-old Ottawa man faces a slew of charges after a man was stabbed in the chest in west Ottawa Tuesday evening.

Ottawa police and paramedics were called to a residence in the 1400 block of Caldwell Avenue at 5:20 p.m. to aid a 33-year-old male with a stab wound to his upper right chest.

Stephane Lafontaine, 37, was in court Wednesday to face charges of assault causing bodily harm, two counts of breach of probation and two counts of breach of undertaking.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

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What's online today.

Video The Canadian Press names Stephen Harper its Newsmaker of the Year for his 'steady statesmanship' at metronews.ca/canada

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Youth drop-in getting facelift

Feds, province announce more than $500K for stimulus project

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

Beginning early next year, the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa's downtown drop-in centre on Besserer Street will be getting a much-needed facelift.

On Wednesday, the federal and provincial governments announced a $533,334 investment in the 60-year-old building. Along with the YSB, they will each be investing one-third of the nearly $800,000 project.

The renovations will provide youth and workers with better laundry and washroom facilities, improved counselling and meeting spaces, as well as better food storage and eating areas.

YSB youth worker Chip McHugh said renovations are a long time coming.

"The youth feel that this is their home, because some of them don't have a home. It's a much-needed change and we're really happy the government is supporting our cause," he said. "When you have old things, it's good to have new things."

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Youth services worker Chip McHugh said money to renovate the downtown drop-in centre on Besserer Street is a long time coming.

The outside of the building will be repaired and the windows and doors will be replaced with energy-efficient fixtures.

"This investment will not only help the Youth Services Bureau with capital costs, it will also assist the program's operating costs as a result of energy efficient upgrades," said Ottawa West-Nepean MPP Jim Watson.

As part of the provincial and federal economic stimulus campaign, work is expected to be completed before March 2011. The work will be done in stages to minimize the disruption to youth who attend the drop-in.

m.metronews.ca

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News in brief

HINTONBURG A free annual Christmas Day dinner by the owners of the Carleton Tavern has become a tradition in the Hintonburg community. Co-sponsored by the Hintonburg Economic Development Committee and friends of the Carleton, the ninth annual dinner is at the Carleton Tavern at 223 Armstrong St. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday. METRO OTTAWA

Forecast for messy travel on holiday weekend

If you're travelling for the holidays, be forewarned.

Boxing Day is going to be messy, weather-wise.

Christmas Day in Ottawa is expected to be a balmy -2 C, but a storm currently brewing over Texas is expected to move northeastward and start blanketing the eastern half of the continent before dawn on Boxing Day.

"The question is, when is it going to be here?" said Peter Kimbell, warning preparedness meteorologist for Environment Canada. "Our forecast reads snow or rain, high of plus four. I'm not going to hold my breath for it getting to plus four."

There is enough warm air sitting above cold surface air for a good potential of freezing rain, he said.

Kimbell said he wouldn't be surprised to see a mixed bag of snow, ice pellets and rain for all of Saturday.

A snowfall is expected on Sunday before temperatures start to dip again heading into the new year.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Charities' Christmas lists last year round

NEEDS Even with Christmas just a day away, there's still time to pick up a few items on local charities' wish lists.

Many of Ottawa's charitable organizations experience their greatest need during the winter months and with the recession, 2009 has seen a rise in the demand for the services these organizations provide.

"It's been really, really busy this year," said executive director of the Shepherds of Good Hope Paul Soucie.

The number of families on the list for Christmas hampers — which provide families with a full Christmas dinner — has increased by about 100 this season. Soucie said that they are most in need of grocery gift cards as well as meat and canned goods.

The Ottawa Mission is also busier this year.

While the shelter held its successful community Christmas dinner earlier this week and the Mission sees a surge in volunteerism during the holidays, spokeswoman Shirley Roy said enthusiasm tends to die down as the winter wears on. "Homelessness goes on all year round," she said. "We'd like to see that (support) continue into the coming months."

During the winter season, the shelter continually seeks donations of warm clothing, including coats, hats, mitts, boots, underwear and warm socks.

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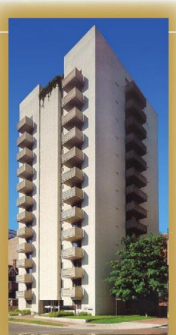

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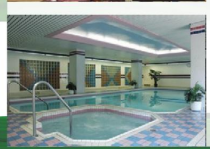

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Judge tells plaintiff to disclose Facebook usage

4 A New Brunswick judge has ordered a woman, who said she can't work full-time, to reveal her Facebook usage to a man she's suing after a 2004 car crash, CBC News reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Canada

Guilty verdict in sex assault case

Peterborough man convicted on 7 charges

A married father of five was found guilty Wednesday of kidnapping and sexually assaulting a 12-year-old Peterborough, Ont., girl.

Stanley Tippett, 33, was arrested Aug. 6, 2008 after the girl was found half-naked behind a school in Courtice, some 70 kilometres from Peterborough.

Ontario Superior Court Justice Bruce Glass found Tippett guilty of all seven counts he was facing, including kidnapping, sexual assault and sexual interference.

Tippett had testified that he came across a group of young drunken girls in south-end Peterborough and that two of them, including the 12-year-old, got into his van. He told the court that minutes after dropping off the older girl he was carjacked by two men at gunpoint and ditched in the country.

The Crown argued that there was no truth in Tippett's testimony about the carjackers.

Outside the court the girl's grandmother said she was "more than happy with the verdict."

"At least this way maybe he can't hurt another child," she said.

The victim was in court for the verdict and the women said her granddaughter wanted to be there to "start her own healing."

Const. Robbie Harding, with Durham Regional Police, testified during the trial that he responded to a call at the high school after receiving reports of screams and crying in a wooded area.

He came upon a man who fled in a red van upon seeing the police cruiser, and pursued the van, which was going so fast it became airborne at one point, court heard. Harding was eventually told to stop the chase, but not before getting the van's licence plate, he testified.

When Harding returned to the school he saw a young girl, holding onto a fence, staggering forward with her lower body exposed.

The van's licence plate was traced back to Tippett, and Harding later identified Tippett from a photo lineup. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

PETER REDMAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stanley Tippett arrives at the Superior Court of Justice in Peterborough, Ont., on Wednesday to hear the judge's verdict. Tippett is accused of kidnapping and sexually assaulting a 12-year-old Peterborough, Ont., girl.

Polarizing figure Harper named Canada's top newsmaker

PRIME MINISTER Stephen Harper began the year facing crater-sized political potholes at home, so he adopted a time-honoured coping mechanism of Canadian prime ministers: he hit the road internationally.

New York, China, India, South Korea — all were ports of call aimed at burnishing Harper's image at home as a trusted economic helmsman in a time of unprecedented financial uncertainty.

The strategy, it seems, worked like a charm: Harper used a steep recession to his political advantage and emerged stronger than ever in his four years in office, a feat that has earned him the title of 2009 Newsmaker of the Year in the annual survey of news organizations by The Canadian Press.

"His personal forays onto the international stage and his surprising positions on major issues such as climate change are criticized, but he sticks to his guns," said Maurice Cloutier, managing editor of Sherbrooke's La Tribune. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

News in brief

ALBERTA Saddled with dwindling employment and shrinking energy prices, Alberta seems to be losing its status as the promised land for job-seekers from across Canada. Statistics Canada's estimate shows more people left Alberta for other provinces than moved in. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Man with knife in chest felt like having coffee

A Michigan man walked one kilometre with a knife in his chest from an attack during a robbery, ordering coffee at a shop before calling police. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

7

World

Dissident on trial

Diplomats, including Canadian, barred from entering Chinese court

A high-profile Chinese dissident accused of subversion was tried at a two-hour hearing Wednesday that shut out foreign diplomats concerned over a case that reflects the communist government's deep suspicion of calls for political reform.

Liu Xiaobo was detained a year ago, just before the release of an unusually direct appeal for more civil rights in China he co-authored called Charter 08, signed by scores of China's top intellectuals. He faces up to 15 years in jail. The verdict is due Friday.

Liu Xiaobo

International human rights groups and Western nations have heavily criticized Liu's detention. A dozen diplomats, including from Canada, the United States, Britain, Germany and Australia, stood outside the Beijing courthouse in freezing weather, barred from entering, along with a handful of Liu's Chinese supporters.

"We call on the government of China to release him immediately," said Gregory May, first secretary with the U.S. Embassy.

Liu, 53, a literary critic and former professor, spent 20 months in jail for joining the 1989 student-led protests in Tiananmen Square that were crushed in a military crackdown. In his writings, most published only on the Internet, he has strongly called for civil rights and political reform. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philippines **Christmas in an evacuation shelter**

BULLIT MARQUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Children, all evacuees of Mayon volcano's ongoing mild eruption, queue up for ice cream at an evacuation centre Wednesday. Despite the risk of an imminent explosive eruption of the 2,460-metre Mayon, some residents weary of shelters are conspiring to go back to their abandoned villages for traditional Christmas Eve family gatherings.

Balloon parents sentenced

COLORADO The parents who carried out the balloon boy hoax were sentenced to jail Wednesday and given strict probation conditions that forbid them from earning any money from the spectacle for four years.

Richard Heene was sentenced to 90 days in jail, including 60 days of work release that will let him pursue his job as a construction contractor while serving his time.

His wife, Mayumi, was sentenced to 20 days in jail.

Richard Heene choked back tears as he said he was sorry, especially to the rescue workers who chased down false reports that his six-year-old son had floated away in a balloon on Oct. 15. It was a stunt designed to generate attention for a reality TV show.

Judge Stephen Schapanski then ordered Heene to begin a 30-day jail term on Jan. 11, delaying the start of the sentence for two weeks so he can spend the holidays with his family. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

DELAWARE A pediatrician charged with sexually abusing his patients likely attacked more than 100 children at an office he had decked out with a merry-go-round, a state official said Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

The economy ended the year in much better shape than it was last January, but there are five key reasons economists think we're not out of the woods yet. Scan this barcode for the full story.

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Fiji..... 24.9 ¢
Ghana.....9.9 ¢
Greece.....2.9 ¢
Guatemala.... 10.9 ¢
Guyana.....27.9 ¢
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Venice streets flooded
An unusually high tide flooded most of Venice early yesterday, forcing tourists and residents to wade through knee-high waters or use improvised boardwalks set up in St. Mark's Square and other landmarks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Senate to pass health bill

The U.S. Senate was poised to hand President Barack Obama a huge Christmas Eve victory by approving a $913 billion overhaul of U.S. health care, capping months of struggle in the face of solid Republican opposition.

Thursday's vote on the bill extending health care coverage to 30 million uninsured Americans brings Obama closer to achieving his top domestic priority. But the final step may be the hardest: Reconciling the Senate bill with a significantly different version already approved by the House of Representatives. A compromise would have to be approved by both chambers.

Passage of the bill Thursday was all but inevitable. Wednesday, Democrats prevailed on the last of three procedural votes requiring the support of all 58 of its members, plus two allied independents. Thursday's vote will require only a simple majority of the 100-member body.

"It has been a long time coming," said a leading Democratic senator, Max Baucus. "I thank God that I have lived to see this day."

Republicans have been almost unanimously opposed to the legislation, saying it will lead to higher taxes, greater deficits and government meddling in health care decisions.

Some liberal Democrats have also not been enthusiastic. The Senate bill would leave some 24 million uninsured. There are no plans for a government-run national health system that would cover all Americans.

Instead, Obama's plan builds on the current system, in which health insurance is provided mainly by employers. But insurance would be mandatory, and many families would receive subsidies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

*Sony Ericsson X1, HTC Magic and BlackBerry Bold 9000 (white) available with new activation on any 3-yr. term voice and data plan having min. $45 monthly service fee. Nokia N86 8MP and LG Eve available with new activation on any 3-yr. term voice and data plan. All other devices featured available with new activation on any 3-yr. term voice plan. Early cancellation fees apply.
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Irish bishop resigns over child abuse

COVERUP A second Roman Catholic bishop in Ireland announced Wednesday that he will resign in the wake of a damning investigation into decades of covering up child abuse in the Dublin archdiocese.

Bishop Jim Moriarty revealed his decision to priests and other officials in his diocese of Kildare and Leithlin, southwest of Dublin. Officials said Moriarty planned to travel to Rome to tender his resignation to Pope Benedict XVI, who has sole power to hire and fire bishops.

Moriarty said he accepted investigators' finding that he failed to react properly when told about abuse cases, particularly of one priest convicted of molesting girls in 1997. But he insisted his inaction reflected his colleagues' poor communication and secrecy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

RUNAWAY A Dutch court ruled Wednesday that 14-year-old sailor Laura Dekker can remain in her father's custody after she ran away from home and travelled alone to the Caribbean. The ruling could allow Dekker to pursue her goal of becoming the youngest person to sail solo around the world.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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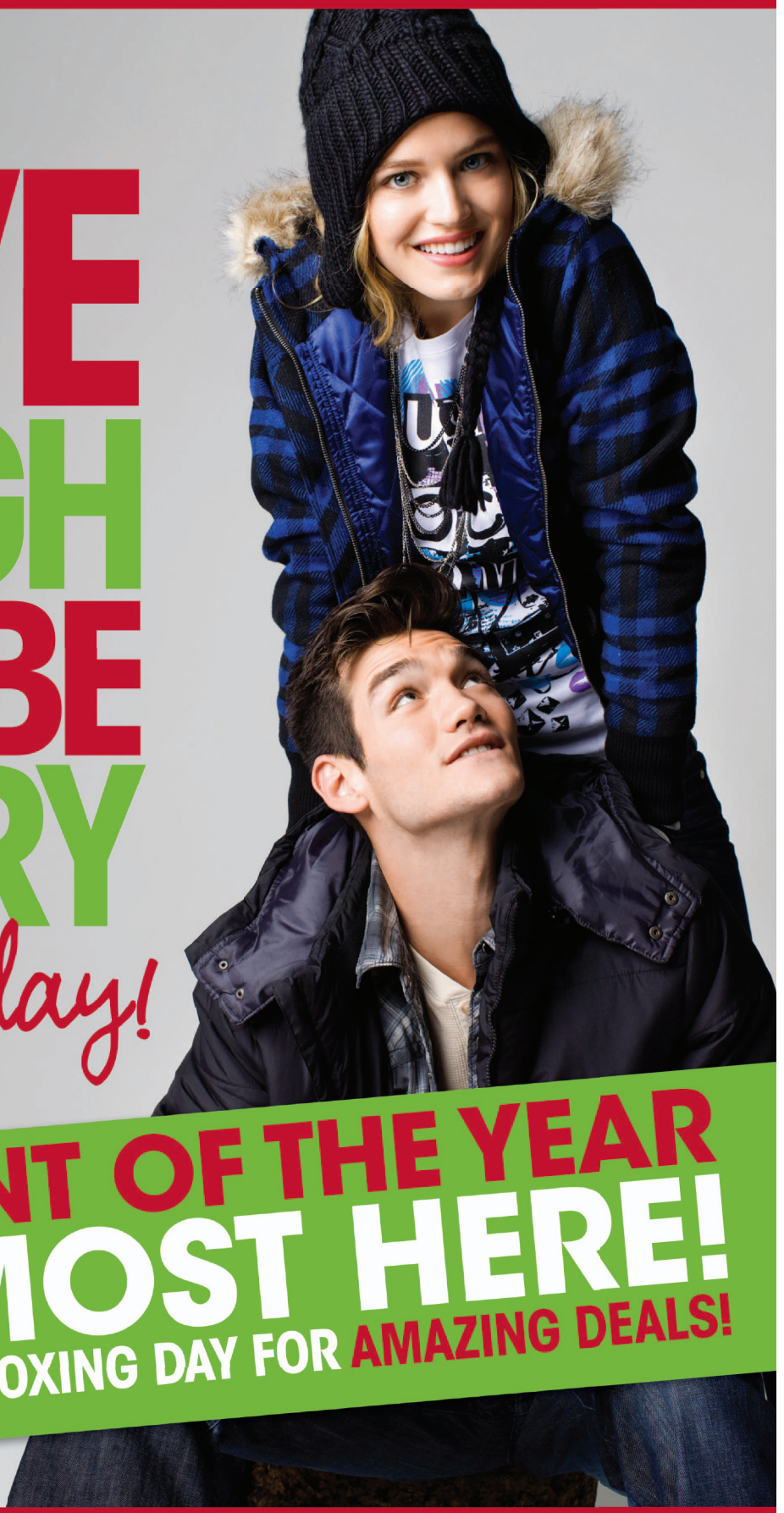

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Comment

Season for memories

Relating

I have no way of knowing under what circumstances you're reading this, whether you're on your way home for the holidays or headed to work, trying to finish your shopping or just catching your breath.

It would be foolish of me to assume anything about what your holidays might look like, since you might not even know. I hope they're peaceful and spent with those you love, but that can be harder than it sounds.

Tomorrow will be whatever it is, and it often looks nothing like the Christmas cards. Our families have bent into all sorts of surprising shapes, and some of us are trying to make it to two or more Christmases, sometimes in different cities or countries.

Travel at this time of year is rough because it's so often mandatory, and schedules are tight. The weather is predictably unpredictable, and countless people find themselves stranded in airports, in hotels, anywhere but where they planned to be. Mangers, even.

And for many of us, there are empty, unfillable spots at the table, where somebody used to be and never will be again. That hurt gets quieter, but it doesn't go away, and it has a way of flaring up at this time of year. It isn't all Merry Happy.

One of the best Christmases I remember was also one of the worst. My father had died only a couple of months before and the rest of us were going to get together at my sister's, traditional as can be, closing ranks against grief.

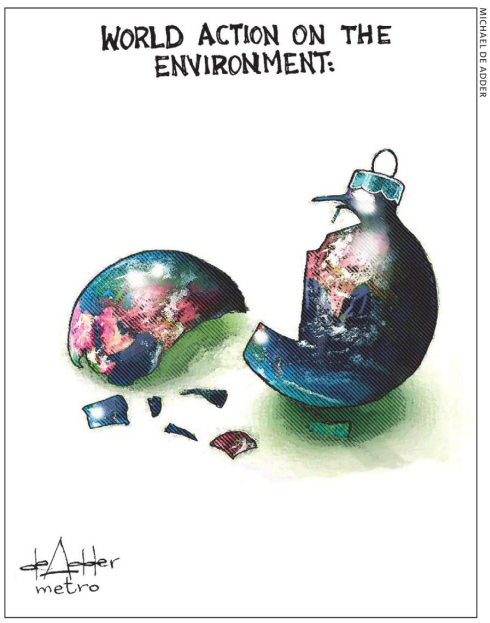
It didn't work out that way. Instead, we got waylaid 300 miles away with a house full of burst pipes and a stack of estate and insurance chores to chew over with a lawyer who didn't want to be there either.

We ended up stuck in a motel room, but we were stuck together. We had some laughs as well as some sobs, and got some laundry done at the coin wash. O holy night.

It wasn't what we expected and this holiday seldom is. Expectations are a big part of the problem, as we all try to transform ourselves from real people to perfect happy families in perfect happy sweaters.

So have yourself a merry little whatever, try to accept the relatives for who they are and who they are trying to be for the occasion. I wish you surpassingly great presents and more hugs than you can handle, but if it doesn't work out, you'll be in good company as we imperfectly celebrate another year of this imperfect, irreplaceable life.

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Feminist newsmakers of the past year

FourthWave

If you needed any proof that feminism is necessary, all you need to do is look to this year's newsmakers. My feminist heroes for 2009 defended and expanded our ideas of what women can be, while the villains tried to scale them back:

Lady Gaga: There's a savvy woman behind the latex bodysuits and comically oversized sunglasses: Gaga takes her persona to an extreme because she recognizes it is constructed, and she criticizes double standards between female and male musicians (being open about sex undermines her music, while his exploits heighten his). And can you remember the last time a pop star used the F-word? Lady G called a Los Angeles Times writer "a little bit of a feminist, like I am," adding, "women need and want someone to look up to that they feel have the full sense of who they are."

Rihanna: Speaking of singers, here's one that reluctantly championed women's rights. After being assaulted by Chris Brown, Rihanna was silent about the whole ordeal until this fall, when she says she realized her fame afforded her a voice to educate women on domestic abuse.

Lady Gaga

Neda Agha-Soltan: During the disputed Iranian election, Neda was on her way to a pro-reform rally June 20 when a sniper allegedly shot and killed her. The haunting video of her last moments galvanized protesters and lent a face to the thousands shouting to make their votes count. Since the crackdown, the government has harassed and arrested prominent activists — women's rights organizers and Nobel peace laureate Shirin Ebadi among them.

Stephen Harper: In recent years, the prime minister has killed funding for advocacy groups and ideologically neutered Status of Women Canada (a federal policy organization charged with improving the lives of women) by removing the essential "equality" part from its mandate. This September, Harper crowed about cuts to the Court Challenges Program, which financially assists people mounting constitutional court challenges — and called the people that used that funding a "left-wing fringe group."

VANOC: It started when a group of female ski jumpers challenged VANOC's decision to exclude its event at the 2010 Games, but ended Tuesday when the Supreme Court refused to hear its case. Sadly, it's neither the first nor last Olympics-related trampling of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms: The City of Vancouver ordered the removal of an anti-Olympic mural, while VANOC demanded a local restaurant named Olympia change its moniker. The heroines in all this are the athletes — some are teenagers fighting for women's rights, while at that age I was busy popping zits and moping.

Canice Leung is a former editor of Ryerson University feminist magazine McClung's, copy editor at Metro, ardent feminist and loudmouth.

Worth mentioning

North Korea gambles with new arms route

North Korea, banned from selling arms by UN sanctions, may have gambled and lost when it dispatched 35 tons of weapons by air rather than by sea as it has done in the past. Authorities seized the plane, which may have been bound for Iran, during a refuelling stop in Thailand.

Sanctions

- The UN imposed sanctions in June, banning North Korea from exporting any arms after the communist regime conducted a nuclear test and test-fired missiles.

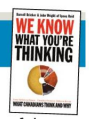
The 11-day saga remains shrouded in mystery and missing pieces, including the final destination of the Ilyushin Il-76 cargo plane now under Thai custody along with its five-man crew.

Among difficulties facing investigators is a fly-by-night infrastructure seemingly rigged up for the flight, including a Hong Kong-based company reportedly involved that was only incorporated Nov. 2 and whose director could not be traced there or at his address in Spain.

But experts in South Korea say one thing appears clear: North Korea is seeking new ways to bust through a U.S.-led interdiction program of its arms sales.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

We Know What You're Thinking



84% The number of Canadians who would prefer to receive a meaningful gift that would help someone else, rather than another traditional gift like a pair of socks or a sweater.

IPSOS REID

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India emerges as world leader in small cars

India has emerged the leader in small cars, overtaking Japan, as declining sales in Western markets coupled with robust growth in Asia redraws the global map of the auto industry. More than 892,000 basic cars will be sold in India this year, surpassing the 708,034 forecast for Japan, according to J.D. Power and Associates. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Cyber crimes to hit smartphones: Experts

THREAT The new year will see more attacks moving to smartphones, now that the devices are being used more like mobile computers, predict security experts.

What's expected to be targeted are "apps" — software applications that let users do things like mobile banking and payments, as well as any other personal or work information on their smartphones.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Task Force readies 2010 report

The federal government's much-ballyhooed Task Force on Financial Literacy is scheduled to release its first report in early 2010 as its 13 members gear up for a cross-country public consultation.

Appointed by Finance Minister Jim Flaherty last June, the task force has the lofty goal of creating Canada's first-ever national strategy on financial literacy.

Although the tide appears to have turned on the recession, task force members say there is a pressing need for Canada to develop a potent action plan because consumers are deeper in debt than ever before.

Household debt-to-income ratio hit a record 145 per cent in September, so for every $100 of income, Canadians owe $145 in debt.

Some experts argue that financial literacy programs are ineffective and amount to little more than a political guise designed to quell calls for more government regulation of the financial sector. Task force member Laurie Campbell, however, says such criticisms are "very short-sighted." Since June, she and her colleagues have been assessing the state of financial literacy in Canada.

"It is not enough to give people information, we have to give people information that they can actually absorb and turn around and use," she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Tooth Doctor©

David J. Halpin, D.D.S.

Toothbrush Trivia!

Season's Greetings to all our readers! We thought you might like to learn about the origins of the toothbrush that we all use every day.

Did you know that the earliest toothbrushes were made from tree twigs that were chewed on? The mechanical action of the twigs helped clean the teeth. These early toothbrushes made of tree twigs were introduced to the Japanese people by Buddhist priests whose religion dictated that they clean their teeth upon arising each morning, before prayers.

For many centuries in India, the daily oral hygiene ritual consisted of scraping the tongue, and brushing the teeth with a mango twig, then rinsing the mouth with a concoction of aromatic herbs and spices. **Fact is, it wasn't until around the year 1490 that the toothbrush as we know it today, with it's bristles perpendicular to the handle, was invented by the Chinese.**

Prior to World War II, toothbrushes sold in Canada were made from hog bristles imported from Russia and China. With the onset of war, these imports were banned with the result that toothbrush manufacturers switched to making toothbrushes with nylon bristles.

To this day, nylon is still used in the manufacture of toothbrushes. Most people still use manual toothbrushes, and properly used, they will help to maintain good oral health. **Your toothbrush should have soft bristles and you should use it at least twice daily for a minimum of 2 to 3 minutes each time you brush.** A toothbrush with hard bristles and/or aggressive horizontal brushing can contribute to recession of the gums and tooth abrasion.

There are also a variety of electric toothbrushes available today. Many come with built-in timers which encourage users to brush for at least two minutes. Some have brush heads which oscillate, while others are of the latest sonic generation. These toothbrushes may be especially beneficial for people who build-up large amounts of plaque, have poor manual dexterity or who suffer from periodontal disease and have bleeding gums.

What ever your choice, the key to maintaining healthy teeth and gums is brushing and flossing carefully, at least twice daily, and remembering to schedule regular semi-annual professional dental cleanings and check-ups.

Yours for better dental health,

Dr. David J. Halpin
B.Sc., D.D.S.

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In brief

PREDICTION Economists are cautiously optimistic that "recession" will not be a prominent phrase in the Canadian vocabulary next year as the economy trudges out from its second-worst annual decline in nearly half a century. Most economists predict a gross domestic product growth rate between 2.5 to three per cent in 2010, about average by historical standards, but not robust enough to make a dent in the 8.5 per cent unemployment rate.

TELECOM Nortel Networks Corp. said Wednesday it has entered an agreement to sell all its carrier voice over Internet protocol and application solutions business to Genband Inc. for $282 million US.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cars Holiday shopping

JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A salesman shows the features inside of a Buick LaCrosse CXS, at Hilltop Buick Pontiac GMC in Richmond, Calif., on Wednesday. Wealthier car buyers are returning to the showroom this holiday season, but they're pinching pennies of a sort by choosing smaller models of Mercedes or BMW — or buying the fanciest cars from other manufacturers.

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- Ateliers dégustation de bières
- Initiation à l'informatique pour les 50 ans et plus – **Nouveau !**
- L'art de monter une cave à vin – **Nouveau !**
- Langues pour le voyage (arabe, espagnol, italien, japonais et mandarin) – **Nouveau !**
- Massothérapie

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Gasol agrees to deal with Lakers
Pau Gasol has agreed to a three-year contract extension with the Los Angeles Lakers, and he's hoping Kobe Bryant follows his lead. Gasol's deal extends through the 2013-14 season, and could be worth more than $60 million US depending on future salary caps. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Deadline looms for fight

The promoter for boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao, left, says a fight against Floyd Mayweather Jr. will not happen unless Mayweather's camp drops its insistence for Olympic-style blood testing. Promoter Bob Arum says if that doesn't happen by Thursday, the proposed March 13 fight that would have likely been the richest ever in boxing is over. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

JAMIE SABAU/GETTY IMAGES

Matt Cooke of the Pittsburgh Penguins screens Senators goaltender Pascal Leclaire as a shot goes by on Wednesday at Mellon Arena in Pittsburgh. The Penguins won 8-2.

Sens suffer ugly defeat

Alfredsson lost to injury

NHL

Senators 2 Penguins 8

AT

Evgeni Malkin had his fourth career hat trick, Bill Guerin added two goals and two assists, and the Pittsburgh Penguins headed into the holiday break tied atop the league standings after routing the Ottawa Senators 8-2 Wednesday night.

Guerin and Chris Kunitz tied a club record with four points apiece during Pittsburgh's five-goal second period, when Ruslan Fedotenko also scored.

Sergei Gonchar added a goal and two assists and Sidney Crosby three assists for the Penguins (26-11-1), who tied a season high for goals and matched New Jersey's 53 points in first place of the Atlantic Division.

The game couldn't have gone worse for the Senators, who lost captain Daniel Alfredsson early to injury on a night Ottawa welcomed back three regulars to the lineup after extended absences. Goalie Pascal Leclaire (fractured cheekbone, out 15 games), winger Chris Neil (left knee, 14 games) and winger Shean Donovan (right knee, 17 games) all had been out for roughly a month.

The Penguins' Craig Adams hit Alfredsson while his head was down and he was battling for the puck with a Penguin in the left-wing corner, causing Alfredsson's helmet to fly off and him to lay on the ice for a short time. Adams was not penalized.

Anton Volchenkov and Chris Kelly scored for Ottawa, which has lost four of six. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

m.metronews.ca

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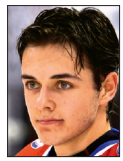
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Canada the favourite, but danger looms from Russia, Sweden at world juniors

They are the home team and therefore the favourite, but winning gold at the world junior hockey championship won't be easy for Canada.

The Swedes, who lost 5-1 to their hosts in the final last year in Ottawa, are back with big goaltender Jacob Markstrom and a fleet of gifted forwards, and the Russians, who lost to Canada in a shootout in the semifinals, should be just as dangerous with Nikita Filatov cruising for goals.

Meanwhile, the Canadians have lost some of their best scorers to the NHL, like John Tavares, Matt Duchene and Evander Kane, as well as the injured Cody Hodgson, and may need to rely more than usual on defence and team play as they try to win a record sixth consecutive gold medal.



Nikita Filatov

Jacob Markstrom

"The record is exciting in itself, especially to do it on home soil," said Canadian defenceman Ryan Ellis, one of four Windsor Spitfires on the team. "It's important for us to win this and be part of history.

"It would help if we had a lot of those guys in the NHL, but I think we'll be fine. Everyone will step up and play better than they ever have."

The tournament, officially called the IIHF Under-20 World Championship, kicks off Saturday with Canada playing the first round in Saskatoon in Group A with Slovakia, the U.S., Latvia and Switzerland, while the tighter Group B in Regina has Sweden, Russia, the Czech Republic, Finland and Austria. The final is Jan. 5.

Canada opens against Latvia with six players returning from last year's squad: Ellis and fellow defencemen Alex Pietrangelo of the St. Louis Blues and Colten Teubert of the Regina Pats, and forwards Jordan Eberle of the Pats, Patrice Cormier of the Rimouski Oceanic and Stefan Della Rovere of the Barrie Colts.

Eberle, who scored six goals in as many games at last year's tournament, and Brayden Schenn of the Brandon Wheat Kings, who was drafted fifth overall by the Los Angeles Kings in June, are expected to be offensive engines, along with an entire line of Spitfires: Centre Adam Henrique, right-winger Greg Nemisz and left-winger Taylor Hall.

Hall will be watched especially closely, as the Ontario Hockey League scoring machine is a candidate to go first overall in the 2010 NHL draft along with Tyler Seguin of the Plymouth Whalers, who didn't make the team. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Another win

- Jordan Eberle scored the winning goal as Canada edged the Czech Republic 3-2 in its final world junior exhibition game Wednesday night in Regina. Canada won all three exhibition games it played.

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Sports in brief

CRISP The Athletics have finalized a $5.25 million US, one-year contract with free agent outfielder Coco Crisp. The deal announced Wednesday pays Crisp $4.75 million next year and includes a $5.75 million club option for 2011 with a $500,000 buyout.

BILLS An ankle injury prevented Buffalo Bills starter Ryan Fitzpatrick from practising Wednesday, opening the possibility for Brian Brohm to make his NFL debut at Atlanta this weekend. Interim head coach Perry Fewell declined to rule out Fitzpatrick, saying the quarterback was feeling better after he was hurt in a 17-10 loss against New England last weekend.

PIERCE Celtics forward Paul Pierce had fluid drained from his right knee Wednesday and will miss the next two weeks. Pierce did not make the flight to Orlando for a Christmas Day game against the Magic. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Pittsburgh 8 OTTAWA 2
Montreal 5 Carolina 1
Minnesota 3 Edmonton 1
N.Y. Islanders 3 Toronto 1
Boston 6 Atlanta 4
Chicago 3 Detroit 0
N.Y. Rangers 4 Florida 1
Philadelphia 5 Tampa Bay 2
Washington 5 Buffalo 2
Columbus at Dallas
Anaheim at Phoenix
St. Louis at Calgary

NBA

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 94 Detroit 64
Miami 80 Utah 70
Minnesota 103 New Jersey 99
Orlando 102 Houston 87
Washington at Milwaukee
Golden State at New Orleans
Portland at San Antonio
Atlanta at Denver
Oklahoma City at Phoenix
Cleveland at Sacramento

Blue Jays complete deal to get Morrow from Mariners

The Toronto Blue Jays are a team without an ace now that Roy Halladay is gone and Wednesday's acquisition of Brandon Morrow does little to immediately change that challenging new reality.

But in picking up the 25-year-old with dominating stuff from the Seattle Mariners, general manager Alex Anthopoulos has added a pure power pitcher to the team's lengthy list of potential starters for 2010, one with an upside that few of the others can match.

"He reminds me a lot of A.J. Burnett in terms of the delivery and the stuff," Anthopoulos said on a conference call after completing the deal that sent reliever Brandon League and minor-league outfielder Johermyn Chavez to Seattle.

Brandon Morrow

"He can throw very hard, it's 98, 99 as if he's playing catch and it's a power curveball in the low 80s, similar to what Burnett did. His changeup is not there right now, it's more of a show-me changeup but it has pretty good action and it has promise, and I think Burnett was kind of the same way. So I think he's got that type of ceiling." THE CANADIAN PRESS

This year in fashion 2009
Hosted by Glen Baxter, a special edition of In Fashion reviews the memorable moments and events that shaped the world of fashion in 2009. Premieres Sunday on CTV. METRO NEWS SERVICE

Style

If the shoe fits... the recipient

Need a last-minute gift idea for the fashionista in your life? Dazzle her with the The Red Shoe Lover's Cell Phone Holder. This bejeweled stand, adorned with fully-faceted crystals, fits most standard headsets and features a built-in grommet for a recharging cable. She will be head over heels for it! Available at The Shoe (thesource.ca) for $9.99.
METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Mounir Mouffarige recently stepped down from his post as Emanuel Ungaro's CEO to pursue his other businesses.

Ungaro CEO steps down

DESIGNER The president of foundering Paris-based label Emanuel Ungaro — who hired Hollywood star Lindsay Lohan last season in what critics decried as a desperate move to revive the flagging brand — has stepped down, the fashion house said in a statement last week.

Lebanese-born businessman Mounir Moufarrige is leaving "in order to devote more time to his other businesses, namely, in the watch and jewelry industry," the statement said.

A press officer for the Ungaro said Moufarrige, who joined the label in 2006, will continue to serve on its strategic committee as an adviser on an "as-needed basis."

Moufarrige has made a specialty out of reviving semi-dormant brands: His achievements include turning the Montblanc pen into a cult object and hiring then little-known designer Stella McCartney at Chloe.

Moufarrige has made a specialty out of reviving semi-dormant brands: His achievements include turning the Montblanc pen into a cult object and hiring then little-known designer Stella McCartney at Chloe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Best and worst '09

Metro polled editors across our 100 editions worldwide to compile this list of who looked great and who didn't this year

Best

1

Michelle Obama
Dubbed the first lady of fashion, Michelle Obama dazzled us with her sleeveless, strapless, and one-armed gowns, classic sheath dresses and creative accessories over the past year. She helped put budding designers on the map (i.e. Jason Wu) and showed off her modesty with old favourites like J. Crew. Not since Jackie O has the fashion world been so intrigued with the White House.

2

Rihanna
Homegirl may have kept her emotions about Chris Brown under wraps, but she was always ready for a photo-op, displaying her increasingly edgy wardrobe for all to see.

3

Diane Kruger
The actress has always been an underground stunner, but she kicked the fashion up a notch while promoting Inglourious Basterds. She's got a knack for wearing pretty pieces that have just the right amount of edge.

Best & Worst

Lady Gaga
We loved: Her wild and crazy approach to fashion (see every outfit in her video for Bad Romance and her wardrobe at the MTV VMA awards).
We hated: Her wild and crazy approach to fashion (i.e. that puzzling bolero made of Kermit the frog stuffed animals and that weird hat made of deer antlers).

Worst

1

Amber Rose
Never mind that she seems to have pulled it together in recent months, Kanye West's girlfriend spent the majority of 2009 looking like one hot skintight legging-wearing mess.

2

Katie Price
From the unnatural-looking tan to the Malibu Barbie clothes, the British reality TV star has made a living out of looking bad.

3

Mariah Carey
Why our beloved diva insists on squeezing into dresses that are clearly a few sizes too small is beyond us. On one hand, we love the kookiness of it all. On the other, we wish she'd burn the Spanx and exhale normally.

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Lively lights up Green Lantern

Gossip Girl actress Blake Lively is set to star in new comic book movie Green Lantern. The 22-year-old blonde star is being lined-up to play the love interest of the main character Hal Jordan — who is played by Ryan Reynold. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Baby Knoxville

It's a boy for Johnny Knoxville and girlfriend Naomi Nelson. The couple welcomed son Rocko Akira Clapp on Sunday in Los Angeles. The baby weighed in at 8 pounds.

PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Gilliam creates imaginary world

The Imaginarium of **Doctor Parnassus**

Director: Terry Gilliam
Stars: Heath Ledger, Johnny Depp
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕½

RICHARD CROUSE
for Metro Canada

As you may have guessed from the title, The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus is an odd movie. Directed by Terry Gilliam, it's the strange tale of a mysterious immortal who complicates his life by making deals with the devil.

Complicating Gilliam's life during production was the unexpected death of his star Heath Ledger but, the show, as they say, must go on and here we are after the untimely January 2008 passing of the young actor, with a completed film. How did Gilliam finish the movie? A new credit, A Film from Heath Ledger and Friends tells the tale.

Three of Ledger's buddies, Johnny Depp (seen dancing on a leaf!), Colin Farrell and Jude Law, stepped in to play "through the looking glass" versions of the late actor.

Set in present day London the film begins with a look at Doctor Parnassus' (Christopher Plummer) bizarre traveling show that offers people a chance to step through Dr.P's magical mirror into an alternate reality. He's selling imagination, but his gift of mind's eye manipulation came with a heavy price.

Eons before he made a trade with the devil (Tom Waits): Remarkable power in exchange for his first born daughter on her sixteenth birthday. That anniversary is now days away but with the help of a mysterious stranger named Tony (played by Ledger, Depp, Law and Farrell) and the magic mirror Dr. P just may be able to save her.

Actor Heath Ledger died unexpected during production of The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus.

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus is more a piece of surrealist art than a traditional movie. Imagine watching a Salvador Dali painting come to life and you'll get the idea. Gilliam, who co-wrote the script as well as directed, has allowed his imagination to run riot.

While the story meanders to and fro he fills the screen with unforgettable images; Old Nick dangling Dr. P from the end of a branch or a multi-eyed hot air balloon shaped like a man's head or the ensemble of skirt wearing, dancing Bobbies. Visually it'll make your eyeballs do the Watusi.

The story, however, may leave some a bit baffled, but so what if it warps the brain a bit? The film oozes Gilliam's trademarked anarchic spirit — he might be the only filmmaker who could replace his leading man with three other actors and actually pull it off — and is the most original movie of the year.

On the web

- For movie trailers, photos and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

It's Complicated uncommonly mature

It's **Complicated**

Director: Nancy Meyers
Stars: Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, Steve Martin
Classification: 14A
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Writer/director Nancy Meyers (Something's Got To Give) is a specialist in romantic comedies about middle-aged women. It's a genre with a built in audience and normally few surprises.

However, there's something different about It's Complicated. This movie actually presents psychologically believable characters and doesn't offer easy happy endings. For a holiday release comedy, it is surprisingly well written despite the Hollywood fantasy elements.

Sure everyone in the movie is ridiculously rich and impossibly attractive, but if Meryl Streep and Alec Baldwin actually had children there probably wouldn't be a fugly kid in the family.

Meryl Streep stars as a divorcee whose youngest child just left for college. Just as she starts planting the seeds for a relationship with a charming architect (Steve Martin), Streep has a drunken rendezvous with her ex-husband (Alec Baldwin) that leads to an affair.

All the expected comic mix-ups and zany shenanigans follow, but what is a pleasant surprise is that they have genuine repercussions for the characters and nothing gets tidied up in an obvious way.

For the most part this is a lighthearted romp, but Nancy Meyers crafts her characters as believable human beings and there is a mature undercurrent of reality rarely found in this sort of movie.

Despite the clever screenplay, this is an actor's movie and Meyers cast the roles well.

Meryl Streep is her expected excellent self, getting plenty of laughs while still creating a three dimensional character. Steve Martin delivers the goods as always, but the real star is Alec Baldwin who steals every scene.

Baldwin has really come into his own as a comic actor in recent years as his burgeoning beer-belly and scotch n' cigars scarred voice began to overcome his leading man looks. It's Complicated might be a little too familiar to be considered a great movie, but it is uncommonly mature for the genre and should please the target audience.

Meryl Streep and Alec Baldwin star in It's Complicated.

- For It's Complicated trailers, photos and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

Longoria launches fragrance
Eva Longoria is to launch her own fragrance. The Desperate Housewives actress has created a new scent with Falic Fashion Group and was keen to make something wearable and not overpowering. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Fun from start to finish

Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law are perfect together in Sherlock Holmes

Sherlock Holmes
Director: Guy Ritchie
Stars: Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕⊕

NED EHRBAR
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Guy Ritchie's risky re-imagining of literature's most famous detective definitely pays off well, thanks in most part to the sheer force of charisma that is Robert Downey Jr.

As he proved earlier this year in the middling The Soloist, Downey can be great even when the movie around him fails to perform. Luckily, in Sherlock Holmes he doesn't have to.

The film takes all the strokes of genius and superhuman deductive skills usually attributed to Holmes and adds the psychological shortcomings that would naturally go with them. He can't venture out into public without obsessively clocking every odd behavior of his fellow Londoners.

Downey portrays all of this splendidly, as unhinged is one of his better looks. But Holmes is nothing without Watson, and under Ritchie's direction, Jude Law is better than he's been in years. The two are perfect together, stirring up enough chemistry to make Watson's fiancée (Kelly Reilly) feel like an unwanted distraction.

Unfortunately, most of Holmes' ticks are abandoned for the second half, when they get down to the business of unraveling the case at hand, the mysterious resurrection of convicted murderer Lord Blackwood (the menacing Mark Strong).

There are plenty of elaborate action sequences set throughout the grey, muddy, under-construction London, but all the loose ends tie up a bit too neatly in the end — except for those needed to tease a sequel. It's absolute fun from start to finish, but it would be nice if so much of the fun weren't front-loaded.

• For Sherlock Holmes photos, a trailer and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

Robert Downey Jr., left, and Jude Law stir up plenty of chemistry in Sherlock Holmes.

Auction to sell Cher's home

PEOPLE Cher's six-bedroom Hawaii home overlooking the Pacific Ocean is set to be auctioned Jan. 18.

Concierge Auctions estimated the property with views of the Hualalai Golf Course at $8 million to $12 million US.

A website set up for the sale says the property has a main residence and five freestanding bungalows totalling 8,821 square feet (819 square meters). Four have bedroom suites, and the fifth is a media bungalow with a bar.

Cosby to receive special award

PRIZE Bill Cosby will be the next recipient of the Marian Anderson Award.

He is to accept the award and $100,000 prize April 6 at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. The comedian, actor and educator is being honoured for his cultural impact as well as his work in encouraging academic achievement and calling for accountability in the black community.

It honours artists whose leadership benefits society. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rapper T.I. released from jail

T.I. has been released from prison in Arkansas and is being moved to a halfway house in Georgia, The Associated Press reports. The rapper, whose real name is Clifford Harris Jr., was released from jail Tuesday.. TVGUIDE.COM

Boxing Day at the movies

Unwind from holiday hassle with the season's latest flicks

"While everyone is returning unwanted Christmas gifts or fighting bargain hunters at the mall, it's the perfect time to relax and catch up flicks you missed in the hectic ramp-up to the holidays."

Movies and Boxing Day go together like turkey and stuffing.

While everyone is returning unwanted Christmas gifts or fighting bargain hunters at the mall it will be the perfect time to relax and catch up on flicks you missed in the hectic ramp-up to the holidays.

The multiplexes are jammed with new movies at this time of year. Go see Disney's first hand-drawn fairy tale in twenty years, The Princess and the Frog, for the beautiful animation

Stay for the great songs and first ever African-American princess.

Also kid friendly is Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel, which sees the three furry singing stars find some competition from The Chipettes, an all girl chipmunk group lead by (the voice of) Drew Barrymore.

If singing rodents aren't your thing how about an all singing, all dancing movie from the usually oh-so-serious Daniel Day Lewis?

The Oscar winner stars in Nine, a musical about a film director juggling relationships with his wife, mistress, muse, agent and mother all while wearing cool Italian suits.

If twisty-turny relationships turn your crank but an overdose of Christmas carols has put you off music for the week, you may find some yuks in watching Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin fight over Meryl Streep in the comedy It's Complicated or the soon-to-be-divorced couple Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker enter the witness-protection program in Did You Hear About the Morgans?.

If you have time on your hands — or simply want a break from Christmas house guests — James Cameron's two-and-a-half-hour sci fi epic Avatar is the longest – and most eye-popping movie in current release.

Can't make the trip to the theatre? There's something on DVD or Blu-ray for everyone and then some. For the kids there's Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince and G-Force, a flick about everyone's favourite team of action guinea pigs.

Once the tots have gone to bed and grandma has had an extra sherry or two check out Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day, Inglourious Basterds or The Hangover for some adult entertainment.

For the music lover in the house there's Taking Woodstock and the excellent guitar rock doc It Might Get Loud.

For the lovelorn, (500) Days of Summer should confirm that love can be fleeting.

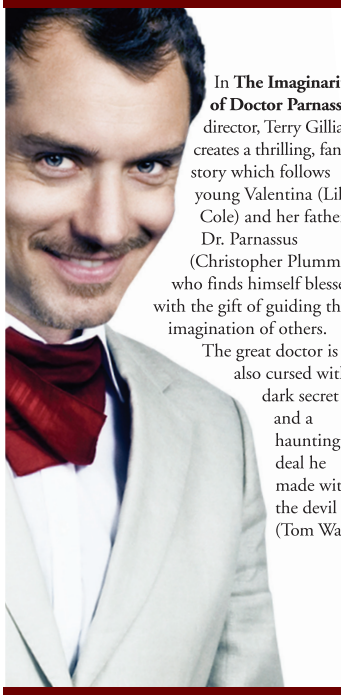
And for the romantics, Julie & Julia should verify that food always tastes better with someone you love.

Whether staying home or going out, there are plenty of options to help while away a lazy Boxing Day.

Nine, starring Penelope Cruz, above, makes for some showy musical fun.

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus

Actors **Depp**, **Law** and **Farrell** Ensure **Ledger's** Final Performance Be Shared

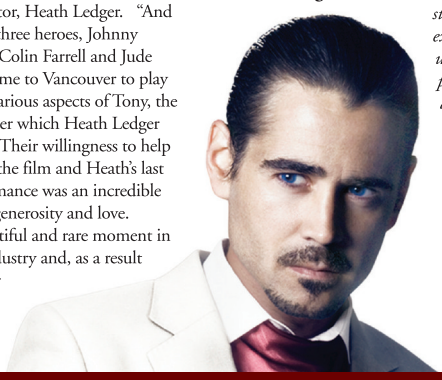


In **The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus** director, Terry Gilliam creates a thrilling, fantasy story which follows young Valentina (Lily Cole) and her father Dr. Parnassus (Christopher Plummer) who finds himself blessed with the gift of guiding the imagination of others. The great doctor is also cursed with a dark secret and a haunting deal he made with the devil (Tom Waits).

The film is a mystifying exploration with an award-winning cast, Heath Ledger, Johnny Depp, Colin Farrell and Jude Law starring as the enigmatic 'Tony' in this captivating story in a race against time.

Production on film **THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS** was halted by the sudden passing of lead actor, Heath Ledger. "And so the three heroes, Johnny Depp, Colin Farrell and Jude Law came to Vancouver to play these various aspects of Tony, the character which Heath Ledger began. Their willingness to help rescue the film and Heath's last performance was an incredible act of generosity and love. A beautiful and rare moment in our industry and, as a result of their involvement, the film is even more special: it's more surprising; it's become funnier. All in all, it's a bit more magical," affectionately exclaims Gilliam.

For the first time, the actors **Johnny Depp**, **Jude Law** and **Colin Farrell** speak out about the film, their admiration for director, Terry Gilliam and actor, **Heath Ledger**.



Johnny Depp remembers *"… Heath is a marvel, Christopher Plummer beyond anything he's ever done, Waits as the Devil is a God, Lily Cole and Andrew Garfield, the very foundation, are spectacular, Verne Troyer simply kicks ass and as for my other cohorts, Colin Farrell and Jude Law, they most certainly did Master Ledger very proud, I salute them. .. Though the circumstances of my involvement are extremely heart-rending and unbelievably sad, I feel privileged to have been asked aboard to stand in on behalf of dear Heath."*

"… To help finish his final piece of work was a tribute I felt compelled to make. To help Terry finish his film was an honour paid to a man I adore…" recalls **Jude Law**.

"… one of cinemas finest actors and most generous of men. It will be this sense of love amidst the sadness I will remember most. Such a gift and an honor, from Heath, to be a part of the trail that he left behind. RIP Heath Ledger x." **Colin Farrell**.

Ledger will be forever immortalized on the silver screen.

IN THEATRES CHRISTMAS DAY

Jon & Kate most overexposed couple
Jon and Kate Gosselin have been named the most overexposed couple of the year, easily beating out Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie in a popeater.com poll. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nine is not enough

Musical fails to make transition stage to the big screen

Nine
Director: Rob Marshall
Stars: Daniel Day-Lewis, Penelope Cruz
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕⊕½

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Nine marks director Rob Marshall's second attempt to turn a lavish stage show into a big-screen showstopper.

REVIEW Based on a musical (which itself was based on Federico Fellini's classic film 8 ½), Nine marks director Rob Marshall's second attempt to turn a lavish stage show into a big-screen showstopper.

Well why not? After all, he found success with Chicago (which won the Best Picture Oscar in 2003) but unfortunately this Italian-set noodle only ends up al dente.

Daniel Day Lewis plays an admired filmmaker in the 1960s that flees Rome and the set of his latest picture at the outset of a midlife crisis. Paralyzed by a creative deadlock, his quandary is reflected in fantasy sequences as the auteur encounters the women in his life — his enduring wife (Marion Cotillard), mistress (Penelope Cruz), mother (Sophia Loren) and others played by the likes of Nicole Kidman and Kate Hudson.

While a song notably accompanies each female's appearance (and surprisingly, the cast can carry a tune) and is intended to reveal the filmmaker's internal struggle, most of the arrangements are still simply unremarkable with the possible exception of Be Italian, the movie's signature song (performed by Fergie of the Black Eyed Peas).

Marshall helps to compensate with a slick production, opulent sequences and a recurring chorus of scantily-clad dancers but without some fetching songs to support it, Nine does not add up to a momentous musical.

While a scrawny storyline only adds to the film's lack of luster, fans of musicals that are willing to accept the film for its surface glitter may be thrilled. For the rest of us … well, rent 8 ½ on DVD over the holidays to see what goes much better without singing.

• For Nine photos, a trailer and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Embraces at its best

Broken Embraces
Director: Pedro Almodovar
Stars: Penelope Cruz, Lluis Homar, Jose Luis Gomez
Classification: STC
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

REVIEW At age 60 and with almost 20 films under his belt, Spanish director Pedro Almodovar still refuses to make movies that behave.

His latest offering, the twisty, turny neo-noir Broken Embraces is no exception. The film tells the tale of a blind pulp fiction writer named Mateo (Lluis Homar), a haunted man who has seemingly withdrawn from life, save for the odd sexual encounter. After a visit from a mysterious young filmmaker sends him into an emotional tailspin, another story is then woven in flashback, drawing the action back a decade earlier, a time when Mateo was a famous, almost Almodovar-esque director, worshipped by many, respected by all. Into his life comes a deranged millionaire (Jose Luis Gomez) and his gorgeous young wife Lena (Penelope Cruz), a meeting which sets forth a volatile chain events that references both the artifice of cinema and genuine human tragedy.

Almodovar is one of those filmmakers that, even when his output is lukewarm it's usually head and shoulders above most director's best work but rest assured Broken Embraces is the maestro firing on all cylinders.

As far as Cruz goes, her mainstream critics tend to cite the mostly lackluster American films she ends up in (see Sahara, etc.), but to see her act in her native tongue, in her comfort zone, is always a treat and here, she's a revelation. As the conflicted, deceitful and hopelessly love (and lust) struck Lena, Cruz owns every frame she graces, delivering a layered, textured and unabashedly sensual performance.

Part hard boiled mystery, part melodrama, part erotic thriller, Broken Embraces is another Almodovar masterpiece, a colorful, emotional amalgam of the fluid, heart pumping Hollywood classics he adores.

Vatican congratulates The Simpsons

TV To put it as the devout Ned Flanders would, the Vatican's newspaper thinks The Simpsons are an okely dokely bunch.

L'Osservatore Romano congratulated the show on its 20th anniversary on Tuesday, praising its philosophical leanings as well as its stinging and often irreverent take on religion.

Without Homer Simpson and the other yellow-skinned characters "many today wouldn't know how to laugh," said the article titled Aristotle's Virtues and Homer's Doughnut.

The paper credited The Simpsons, the longest-running American animated program, with opening up cartoons to an adult audience. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

primetime 12/24/09

OT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	265	353	2	TVO	Little Dorrit		Little Dorrit		Little Dorrit		Little Dorrit		Little Dorrit
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	*The Road to Christmas* (2006, Comedy) Jennifer Grey.				Mall Santa		Bethlehem
	-	-	5	SRC	*Sur les traces du Père Noël 2* ★★ (2002, Comédie) (SC)				Studio 12 (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal Nouvelles. (SC)		La Messe de
	209	342	6	CHRO	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		*Santa Baby* (2006, Comedy) Jenny McCarthy, Ivan Sergei.				Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Comedy Now
	196	311	7	CTV	Corner Gas	Degrassi: TNG	*It's a Wonderful Life* ★★★★ (1946, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart, Donna Reed. (DVS)						CTV News
	208	303	8	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	*Miracle on 34th Street* ★★★★ (1947, Fantasy)				CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	*It's a Wonderful Life* ★★★★ (1946, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart, Donna Reed. (DVS)						News
	117	713	10	TVA	(6:30) *Maman, j'ai encore raté l'avion* ★★ (1992, Comédie)				Les Anges de la rénovation		Les Anges de la rénovation		TVA nouvelles
	-	-	11	QS	Smile TV (SC)	Criss Angel	La Guerre des clans (SC)					L'Attaque à 5 (N)	
	137	763	12	TFO	Un monde de passion		Planète country		La Messe en si mineur L'ensemble orchestral de Paris.				Noël en choeur
	-	362	13	CBS	The Insider (N)	Judge-Brown	CSI: NY "Greater Good"		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Mentalist (HDTV)		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Family Guy	The Simpsons	A Thousand Words		A Thousand Miles to Freedom		So Far From Home		Living Odyssey
	214	344	15	CITY	Murdoch Mysteries (HDTV)		Scrubs	Better Off Ted	Modern Family	30 Rock	Glenn Martin	Glenn Martin	CityNews Int'l
	115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Office	Italy, Far but Near (N)		World Bites		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		TBA
	218	345	18	CHCH	*Meet Me in St. Louis* ★★★ (1944, Musical) Judy Garland.				*Holiday Inn* ★★★ (1942, Musical Comedy) Bing Crosby.				News at 11 (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	Action News	Entertainment	Prep- Landing	The Middle	Modern Family	Cougar Town	Grey's Anatomy (HDTV)		News
	512	396	24	CPAC	(6) Political Reflections						Le Débat	Tête-à-tête	Cérémonie
	651	355	25	CTS	Little House on the Prairie		Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman		100 Huntley Street		Candles and Carols 2009		Hour of Power
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	Bones (HDTV PA)		Fringe (HDTV PA)		FOX 2 News (N)		Holiday Conn
	-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Gift of Heart	To Manor Born	Time Goes By	Christmas With Mormon		Christmas at St. Olaf		Charlie Rose
	205	312	104	CTV	Corner Gas	Degrassi: TNG	*It's a Wonderful Life* ★★★★ (1946, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart, Donna Reed. (DVS)						CTV News
news	502	390	26	NW	Princess Diana		The World of Haute Couture		CBC News: The National		Princesses of the World		National
	500	500	33	CNN	CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports	406	417	27	net	Reflections The year in sports.		Plays of Year	Perfect 10	PartyPoker.net		Sportsnet Connected		Vancouver
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	SportsCentre: Year in Review		30 for 30		Sid le Kid vs. Alex le Grand		SportsCentre	SportsCentre: Year in Review	
	410	403	52	SCR	Top 50 Plays of the Year		Cabbie's Top	Court Cuts	Amazing Hits	Gerry Dee	Score Now		Top Plays
	411	457	56	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	59	SC	(5) Barrett-Jackson Automobile Auction From Las Vegas.								
family	554	544	48	TEL	The Legend of Frosty the Snowman Ice skate.				Futurama	King of the Hill	*Batman Returns* ★★ (1992, Action)		
	557	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	551	542	65	YTV	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Mystery Hnt.	Mon. Warriors	Fries That?	Weird Years	Mon. Warriors
	570	580	29	MM	Ranked!		VH1 Divas				Entourage	Wild 'n Out	VH1 Divas
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48
cable variety	628	584	32	SPKE	(6) *Star Wars IV: A New Hope* (1977, Science Fiction)				*Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back* ★★★★ (1980, Science Fiction)				
	521	560	34	TLC	Heavy Haulers (HDTV)		Little Chocolatiers		World Chocolate		BBQ Pitmasters (HDTV)		Chocolatiers
	145	761	35	TV5	La Vie est un cirque		Petits meurtres en famille			Drôle de Noël Valérie Benguigui.			TV5 Le Journal
	616	521	39	SHO	(6) *His and Her Christmas*		*Christmas Caper* (2007, Comedy-Drama)				*The Christmas Choir* (2008, Drama)		
	620	523	40	BVO	Trans-Siberian Orchestra		Johnny Cash Christmas		*The Man Who Saved Christmas* (2002, Docudrama)				Law & Order
	520	505	42	DIS	Canada's Worst Driver		Canada's Worst Driver		Canada's Worst Driver		Canada's Worst Driver		Worst Driver
	575	583	43	CMT	Faith Hill, Joy to the World		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Faith Hill, Joy
	601	562	45	SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted "Hugh"		X-Weighted		X-Weighted "Heather"		ET Canada
	625	548	46	COM	Colbert Christmas: Gift		Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeff Dunham Christmas		Denis Leary
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*The Mighty Ducks* ★★ (1992, Comedy)		
	600	564	49	H&G	Design Inc. Holiday		Sarah's Holiday Party		Carter Comes Home		25 Great Holiday Ideas		Curb Appeal
	627	528	50	SPC	(6) *Star Wars: Episode II -- Attack of the Clones* ★★				(9:05) *Star Wars: Episode III -- Revenge of the Sith* ★★★ (2005)				
	581	566	53	MTV	Jersey Shore				Jersey Shore		Jersey Shore		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	TV Made, Do It	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	522	506	55	HIS	Ice Road Truckers		Ancient Discoveries		Underworld Histories		Life After People		Santa Claus
	129	773	60	CD	Ben et Jarrod (HDTV)		Ben et Jarrod (HDTV)		Mayday (SC)		Images-chocs		Grand rire
	261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote		On the Buses	Bless-Father	*Borrowed Hearts* (1997, Drama) Roma Downey.				Christmas
	602	567	62	W	*Silent Night* (2002, Drama) Linda Hamilton, Matthew Harbour.				*Me and Luke* (2006, Drama) Kristopher Turner, Louise Fletcher.				Maxed Out
	269	350	70	APTN	Don Burnstick Comedy		Wolf Canyon	Urban Indian	*True Heart* ★★ (1997, Adventure) Kirsten Dunst.				Fish Out
	621	527	71	TLK	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (HDTV)		TMZ
	603	561	95	FN	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives (N)		Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives		Guy's Disney Holiday		Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives		Diner, Drive-In

critics'corner

Miracle on 34th Street
In this 1947 classic, Edmund Gwenn stars as a Macy's Santa who gets into trouble when he claims he's the real Kriss Kringle. In a city full of impostors, he finds no one — not even a little girl (Natalie Wood) — willing to believe in him. With skeptics ridiculing him at every turn, Kringle has no choice but to take his case to court. Only one young lawyer has enough faith to defend him. Maureen O'Hara and John Payne also star in the Academy Award winner. 8 PM on 8 CBC

The Road to Christmas
Despite the title, this isn't a Hope-Crosby jaunt. Instead it's a fluffy little comedy about a woman (Jennifer Grey) who obviously missed all those movies in which yuletide weddings go terribly wrong. Stranded by a storm on the way to her ceremony, she's forced to accept a ride from a stranger (Clark Gregg). Hitchhiking is also a generally bad idea, but this guy has his kid with him, so he's cool. 6 AM on 62 W

Court blocks Boy George appearance

A British court has blocked an attempt by former Culture Club singer Boy George to appear on a reality television show. The 48-year-old had hoped to appear on Channel 4's ``Celebrity Big Brother'' despite being on probation for assaulting a male escort. THE ASSOCIATED PRESSS

Metro picks Canada's best in music

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada

This list should probably include albums like The Fame Monster by Lady Gaga (even if her tracks sounds like ABBA retreads, it's about time somebody injected shock back into pop) and Blueprint 3 by Jay-Z (Empire State of mind is classy stuff, Yankees' fan or not). But it won't. There's always enough worthy Canadian music to promote without having to venture south or overseas. So this list is entirely home grown.

1. THE ARKELLS, JACKSON SQUARE (DINE ALONE): This album was actually released late in 2008, but few paid attention until this year when the singles Oh the Boss is Coming and The Ballad of Hugo Chavez made the rock airways. This is an extraordinary debut album by the Hamilton-based band that merges catchy, high-energy hooks with intelligent lyrics. Tracks like Champagne Socialist and John Lennon in 67 leave the Arkells a cut above everyone else right now. And a year of steady touring has forged a fiery live act that will win over any audience.

2. ALEXISONFIRE, OLD CROWS/YOUNG CARDINALS (DINE ALONE): Alexisonfire had already demonstrated strong instrumental chops and a strong sense of lyrical purpose. All it needed was to tone down the screamo vocals and delve into their rock roots. They did all this and more on their fourth album. It all comes together on tracks like The Northern, where the band incorporates the gospel standard Roll Jordan Roll into the chorus, and Emerald Street, where George Pettit shows a journalist's eye for composition

3. LEE HARVEY OSMOND, QUIET EVIL (LATENT): A collective effort that with representation from the Cowboy Junkies, the Skydiggers, Junkhouse that sprang from a Michael Timmins project to musically chronicle the assassination of JFK. The group accomplishes the task in brilliant form in the track, Parkland, named after the Dallas hospital in which the president was pronounced dead. Frontman Tom Wilson describes this deeply dark, sometimes frightening, music as "acid folk." It fits.

4. METRIC, FANTASIES (METRIC MUSIC): This album would make the list simply for asking the "would you rather be The Beatles or the Rolling Stones?" But there are 10 solid tracks on this album, including Help I'm Alive. Emily Haines' songwriting keeps getting stronger. It's difficult to understand how this album didn't win the Polaris Prize. Metric, it seems, has become too popular for the indie-addled judges

5. TRAGICALLY HIP, WE ARE THE SAME (UNIVERSAL): We should never take this band for granted. After more than 20 years of recording the truest form of Canadian rock in existence, the Hip pulls together one of their most ambitious projects to date. And all of the tracks on this release fit in comfortably with the rest of the band's incredible catalogue.

Metro music reviewer Graham Rockingham picks The Arkells' Jackson Square as one of the best Canadian albums of the year.

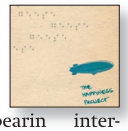
BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

With just a couple weeks left in the year, every music fan is likely busy compiling a list of the decade's best records. But we can't forget how good 2009 has been. There was Sonic Youth's infectious The Eternal, La Roux's electro pop debut, Grizzly Bear's harmony laden folk on Veckatimst and the list goes on. But five Canadian records really stood out. Not only are these better than much of the international albums that hit shelves, but they've outshone all of the incredible talent coming out of the Great White North.

1. JOEL PLASKETT THREE (MAPLEMUSIC/UNIVERSAL): This seminal East Coast rocker has created a lot of good music over the years, but Three is easily his most ambitious effort yet. It should have been a mess — a triple disc, 27-song effort has a lot of potential to go wrong — but nearly every track here is as inspiring as the next. Partnering with Rose Cousins and Ana Egge, who provided stunning harmonies, was genius, while the infectious folk melodies are classic Plaskett.

2. ALEXISONFIRE, OLD CROWS/YOUNG CARDINALS (DINE ALONE): I've never liked Alexisonfire. Their aggressive yells and uneven songwriting didn't do much for me — that is until I heard their fourth disc Old Crows/Young Cardinals. On this record the group has, without question, found their voice. They've discovered the perfect balance between George Pettit's loud, guttural yells and Dallas Green's soaring melodic vocals. The songs are incredibly contagious, especially single Young Cardinals.

3. CHARLES SPEARIN THE HAPPINESS PROJECT (ARTS & CRAFTS/EMI): You know Charles Spearin as the multi-instrumentalist from Do May Say Think and Broken Social Scene, but the artist's most inventive work has to be The Happiness Project. On this record, Spearin interviewed people from his community and set their words to sounds. Horn blasts follow a woman's natural talking melodies on the track Mrs. Morris, while a jazz band plays around with a little girl's words on Vittoria. It's experimental and accessible, but better yet it's passionate, inspiring and a beautiful ode to Spearin's neighbourhood.



4. HANDSOME FURS FACE CONTROL (SUB POP/OUTSIDE): Wolf Parade is one of the more popular indie acts to come out of Canada, but it's the members' side projects that should be front and centre. Handsome Furs is the brainchild of Wolf Parade's guitarist Dan Boeckner and his wife Alexei Perry — and the buzz is definitely competing with his other group. The duo's second disc is a gorgeous collection of gritty synth-heavy rock.

5. K'NAAN TROUBADOR (A&M/UNIVERSAL): Canadians have known about K'naan — the Somalia-born, Toronto-based rapper — since his fantastic debut in 2006. But, it was this year that the rest of the world finally discovered Keinan Abdi Warsame. That's thanks to his incredible sophomore record Troubador — which blends hip-hop, rock, R&B and everything else. It's filled with catchy hooks, but it's the subject matter on songs like Fatima, about a girl he knew in Africa, that makes this a memorable effort.

Metro music reviewer Bryan Borzykowski picks Joel Plaskett's Three as one of the best Canadian albums of the year.

Cineplex | Independent | Museum | Empire | AMC | Rainbow Cinemas

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 25 TO THURS., JAN.1. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

OTTAWA

BYTOWNE CINEMA
325 Rideau St., 613-789-3456

Broken Embraces (14A) Sat 3:55-6:35 Sun-Tue 1:45-8:45 Wed 4:25-9:15 Thu 4:25
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri
The Young Victoria (PG) Sat 1:45-9:15 Sun-Tue 4:25-6:35 Wed-Thu 2:15-7:05

CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE
2 Daly Ave., Suite 120, 613-232-6727

No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri-Thu

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE
240 McLeod St., 613-566-4700

The Deep (STC) Fri-Wed 11:30-1:30-3:30 Thu 6 Fri-Wed 12:30-2:30 Thu 7
Sea Exhibition (STC) Fri-Wed 9:30-10-10:30-11

COLISEUM OTTAWA
3090 Carling Ave., 613-596-9475

3 Idiots (PG) Fri 4:40-8:30 Sat-Thu 12:50-4:40-8:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes Fri 3-4-5:20-7:40-10:10 No Passes Sat-Thu 12:30-1:30-3-4-5:20-7:40-10:10
Avatar 3D (STC) No Passes Fri 3:10-6:15-7:10-10:30 No Passes Sat-Thu 11:30-2-3:10-6:15-7:10-10:30
Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG) Fri 5:10-7:50-10:25 Sat-Thu 12:2-35-5:10-7:50-10:25
Invictus (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30-9:35
It's Complicated (14A) No Passes Fri 4:20-7:20-10:20 No Passes Sat-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
Nine (PG) No Passes Fri 3:40-6:40-9:40 No Passes Sat-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri 4:50-7:15-9:45 Sat-Thu 11:45-2:15-4:50-7:15-9:45
Sherlock Holmes (PG) No Passes Fri 4:30-6:50-7:30-9:50-10:35 No Passes Sat-Thu 1:10-4:30-6:50-7:30-9:50-10:35
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 3:30 Sat-Thu 12:15-3:30
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Fri 4:10-7:10-10:05 No Passes Sat-Thu 1-4:10-7:10-10:05

EMPIRE 7 CINEMAS
111 Albert St., 3rd Floor, World Exchange Plaza, 613-233-0209

Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG) No Passes Fri 4:10-7:10-9:55 No Passes Sat 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:55 Sun-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:55
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG) Fri 3:35-6:35-9:25 Sat-Thu 12:35-3:35-6:35-9:25
Invictus (PG) Fri 3:30-6:30-9:35 Sat-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:35
It's Complicated (14A) No Passes Fri 3:40-6:40-9:30 No Passes Sat-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:30
Nine (PG) Fri 3:45-6:45-9:40 Sat-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:40
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:45 Sat-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:45
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Fri 4-7-9:50 No Passes Sat-Thu 1-4-7-9:50

MAYFAIR THEATRE
1074 Bank St., 613-730-3403, mayfair-movie.com

Astro Boy (PG) Sat 2:45 Mon-Tue 1
Good Hair (PG) Tue-Wed 9:15
The Invention of Lying (PG) Sat-Mon 7
It Might Get Loud (PG) Sat-Mon 9:15
The Man From Deep River (STC) Sat 11:15
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri
Unmistaken Child (G) Tue-Wed 7
Where the Wild Things Are (PG) Sun 4:45 Wed-Thu 1
Young Sherlock Holmes (STC) Sat 4:45 Sun 2:30

OTTAWA FAMILY CINEMA
710 Broadview Ave., 613-722-8218, familycinema.ca

No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri-Thu

RAINBOW CINEMAS
St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd., 613-688-0850

2012 (14A) Sat-Thu 2:05-5:10-8:30
Astro Boy (PG) Sat-Thu 10-12
Brothers (14A) Sat-Thu 6:40-8:50
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (STC) Sat-Thu 10:10-12:10-2:15-4:30
Couples Retreat (PG) Sat-Thu 2:35-4:50-9:20
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Sat-Thu 10:30-12:35-2:40-4:55-7:9
Me and Orson Welles (PG) Sat-Thu 9:55-12:15-7:05
The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) Sat-Thu 6:50-9:10
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri
Planet 51 (PG) Sat-Thu 10:20-12:25-2:25-4:40

RIDEAU CENTRE CINEMAS
50 Rideau St., 613-234-3712

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes Fri 7:15-9:15 No Passes Sat-Thu 1:20-3:40-7-9
Avatar (STC) No Passes Fri 7 No Passes Sat 12:50-4:30-8:30 Sun-Thu 12:50-4:30-8:30
Sherlock Holmes (PG) No Passes Fri 6:45-9:30 No Passes Sat-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:40-9:25

SOUTH KEYS
2214 Bank St., 613-736-1115

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes Fri 12:30-1:05-2:50-3:30-7:05-9:30 No Passes Sat-Thu 10:05-10:45-12:30-1:05-2:50-3:30-7:05-9:30
Avatar (STC) No Passes Fri 2:55-6:45-10:30 No Passes Sat-Thu 11:10-2:55-6:45-10:30
Avatar 3D (STC) No Passes Fri 2-6:15-10 No Passes Sat-Thu 10-2-6:15-10
Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG) Fri 1:25-3:55-7:9:25 Sat-Thu 10:55-1:25-3:55-7-9:25
Invictus (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:35-6:40-10:05
It's Complicated (14A) No Passes Fri 1:30-4:15-7:15-10:10 No Passes Sat-Thu 10:40-1:30-4:15-7:15-10:10
Nine (PG) No Passes Fri 1-4-6:50-9:50 No Passes Sat-Thu 10:10-1-4-6:50-9:50
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri 1:15-3:40-7:10-9:35 Sat-Thu 10:30-1:15-3:40-7:10-9:35
Sherlock Holmes (PG) No Passes Fri 1:35-4:25-6:55-7:25-9:55-10:15 No Passes Sat-Thu 10:35-1:35-4:25-6:55-7:25-9:55-10:15
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 1:10-4:05-7:20-10:20 Sat-Thu 10:20-1:10-4:05-7:20-10:20
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Fri 12:50-3:25-6:35-9:10 No Passes Sat-Thu 10:15-12:50-3:25-6:35-9:10

GATINEAU

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION
100 rue Laurier, 819-776-7010

De Tanger a la Mecque (STC) Sat 4 Sun 10 Mon 8 Tue-Wed 4
Journey to Mecca in the Footsteps of Ibn Battuta (STC) Sat 2-5-8 Sun-Mon 2-5 Tue-Wed 2-5-8 Thu 2
Mysteres des Grands Lacs (STC) Sat 1 Sun 4 Mon 1 Wed 1
Mysteries of the Great Lakes (STC) Sat 12-9 Sun 12-6 Mon 12 Tue-Wed 12-9 Thu 12
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri
Safari Sauvage 3D (STC) Sat 10 Sun 1 Mon 4-9 Tue 1-7 Wed 1 Thu 4
Wild Safari: A South African Adventure (STC) Sat 11-3-7 Sun 11-3 Mon 11-3-7 Tue 11-3 Wed 11-3-7 Thu 11-3

CINÉMA DES GALERIES D'AYLMER
400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne, 819-248-2526

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri 1:10-3:20 Sat-Wed 1:10-3:20-7:10-9:20 Thu 1:10-3:20
Avatar 3D (STC) Fri 12:30 Sat-Wed 12:30-4-7:30 Thu 12:30
Noémie: Le secret (STC) Fri 12:40 Sat-Wed 12:40-6:40 Thu 12:40
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri 12:50-3:30 Sat-Wed 12:50-3:30-6:50-9:30 Thu 12:50-3:30
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 3 Sat-Wed 3-9 Thu 3

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CINÉ-STARZ
1100 boul. Maloney Ouest, 819-568-8000

Astro v.f. (STC) Sat-Thu 12-1:40-3:20-5:05
Frères (13+) Sat-Wed 3:25-7-9 Thu 3:25
Il pleut des hamburgers (G) Sat-Wed 12-1:35-3:10-6:25 Thu 12-1:35-3:10
L'ère de glace: L'aube des dinosaures (G) Sat-Thu 12-5:15
L'éveil d'un champion (G) Sat-Wed 4:45-7 Thu 4:45
Ninja Assassin (16+) Sat-Wed 8-9:40
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri
Opération G-Force (G) Sat-Thu 12-1:35-3:10
Pour Toujours, Les Canadiens! (STC) Sat-Thu 4:45
Le Quatrième type (13+) Sat-Wed 9:15
Tout va bien (G) Sat-Wed 1:40-7-9 Thu 1:40

GATINEAU 9
120 boul. de l'Hôpital, 819-568-6070

2012 (G) Sat-Wed 9:15
Alvin et les Chipmunks: La suite (G) No Passes Fri 2:15-4:30-6:45 No Passes Sat-Wed 12-2:15-4:30-6:45-8:45 No Passes Thu 12-2:15-4:30-6:45
Avatar (G) No Passes Fri 2-6 No Passes Sat-Wed 2-6-9:30 No Passes Thu 2-6
Haut dans les airs (G) No Passes Fri 3:40-6:30 No Passes Sat-Wed 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:05 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:40-6:30
Millénium 2 (STC) Fri 4:15-7:20 Sat-Wed 1:20-4:15-7:20-10 Thu 1:20-4:15-7:20
Noémie: Le secret (STC) Sat-Thu 1
Où sont passé les Morgan? (STC) Fri 4-7:15 Sat-Wed 1:15-4-7:15-9:35 Thu 1:15-4-7:15
La princesse et la grenouille (G) Fri 2:30-4:40-7 Sat-Thu 12:15-2:30-4:40-7
La Saga Twilight: Tentation (G) Fri 3:50-7:05 Sat-Wed 3:50-7:05-9:50 Thu 3:50-7:05
Sherlock Holmes (G) No Passes Fri 3:20-6:50 No Passes Sat-Wed 12:30-3:20-6:50-9:45 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:20-6:50
Étreintes brisées (13+) Fri 3:30-6:20 Sat-Wed 12:40-3:30-6:20-9 Thu 12:40-3:30-6:20

STARCITÉ HULL
115 boul. du Plateau, 819-770-1090, cinemasfortune.ca

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes Fri 3:10-5:25-7:15-9:35 No Passes Sat-Wed 12:45-3:10-5:25-7:15-9:35 No Passes Thu 12:45-3:10-5:25-7:15
Alvin et les Chipmunks: La suite (G) No Passes Fri 4:10-4:25-7:05-9:20 No Passes Sat-Wed 12:05-1:15-2:15-4:10-4:25-7:05-9:20 No Passes Thu 12:05-1:15-2:15-4:10-4:25-7:05
Avatar (G) Fri 3:50-7:10:15 Sat-Wed 12:30-3:50-7:10 Thu 12:30-3:50-7 Fri 3:35-6:55-10:10 Sat-Wed 12:15-3:35-6:55-10:10 Thu 12:15-3:35-6:55
Avatar 3D (G) Fri 3:20-6:40-10 Sat-Wed 12-3:20-6:40-10 Thu 12-3:20-6:40
Brothers (13+) Fri-Wed 7:30-9:50 Thu 7:30
Did You Hear About the Morgans? (STC) No Passes Fri 3:40-6:45-9:05 No Passes Sat-Wed 1-3:40-6:45-9:05 No Passes Thu 1-3:40-6:45
Disney's A Christmas Carol (G) Fri-Wed 7:35-9:55 Thu 7:35
Invictus (G) Fri 3-6:35-9:25 Sat-Wed 12:10-3-6:35-9:25 Thu 12:10-3-6:35
It's Complicated (G) Fri 4-7:25-10:05 Sat-Wed 12:55-4-7:25-10:05 Thu 12:55-4-7:25
Millénium 2 (STC) No Passes Fri 3:30-6:25-9:25 No Passes Sat-Wed 12:35-3:30-6:25-9:25 No Passes Thu 12:35-3:30-6:25
Nine (G) Fri 4:05-7:20-10 Sat-Wed 1:05-4:05-7:20-10 Thu 1:05-4:05-7:20
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Wed 7:40-9:45 Thu 7:40
Planète 51 (G) Fri 4:40 Sat-Thu 12:20-2:30-4:40
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri 4:55-7:10-9:30 No Passes Sat-Wed 12:25-2:40-4:55-7:10-9:30 No Passes Thu 12:25-2:40-4:55-7:10
La princesse et la grenouille (G) Fri 5:10 Sat-Thu 12:40-2:55-5:10
Sherlock Holmes (G) Fri 3:55-6:50-9:40 Sat-Wed 1:10-3:55-6:50-9:40 Thu 1:10-3:55-6:50 Fri 3:45-6:30-9:15 Sat-Wed 12:50-3:45-6:30-9:15 Thu 12:50-3:45-6:30

BARRHAVEN

BARRHAVEN CINEMAS
131 Riocan Dr., 613-825-2463

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes Fri 4:15-6:40-9:20 No Passes Sat-Thu 11:40-2-4:15-6:40-9:20
Avatar 3D (STC) No Passes Fri 3:10-7:10:45 No Passes Sat-Thu 11:30-3:10-7:10:45
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 3:30-9:30
Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG) Fri 4:20-7:20-10:10 Sat-Thu 12:30-4:20-7:20-10:10
It's Complicated (14A) No Passes Fri 4-6:50-9:50 No Passes Sat-Thu 12:20-4-6:50-9:50
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri 3:40-7:10-9:40 Sat-Thu 12:3-40-7:10-9:40
Sherlock Holmes (PG) No Passes Fri 4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Sat-Thu 1-4:30-7:30-10:30
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 6:30 Sat-Thu 12:10-6:30

GLOUCESTER

SILVERCITY
2385 City Park Dr., 613-688-8800

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes Fri 11:35-12:10-2:10-2:35-4:30-4:50-6:50-7:10-9:10-9:30 No Passes Sat 10:40-12:10-1-2:35-3:20-4:50-5:40-7:10-8-9:30-10:20 No Passes Sun 12:10-1-2:35-3:20-4:50-5:40-7:10-8-9:30-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 10:40-12:10-1-2:35-3:20-4:50-5:40-7:10-8-9:30-10:20
Avatar 3D (STC) No Passes Fri 1-2-4:30-6:20-8-10 No Passes Sat-Thu 10:30-11:30-2:30-4-6:20-7:30-10-11
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:30
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-6:45
Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-4:10-7:25-10:10
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:10-7:05
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:35-6:35-9:25
Invictus (PG) Fri-Thu 3:45-9:45
It's Complicated (14A) No Passes Fri 12:25-3:25-6:25-9:35 No Passes Sat-Thu 11-2-4:45-7:45-10:45
Nine (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:30
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 9:40
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:20-4:40-7:20-9:50
Sherlock Holmes (PG) No Passes Fri 11:40-1:10-2:45-4:15-6-7:15-9:20-10:20 No Passes Sat 10:50-11:40-1:50-3-4:50-6:25-7:50-9:35-10:50 No Passes Sun 11:40-1:50-3-4:50-6:25-7:50-9:35-10:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 10:50-11:40-1:50-3-4:50-6:25-7:50-9:35-10:50
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:15-6:15-9:15
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:35-10:25

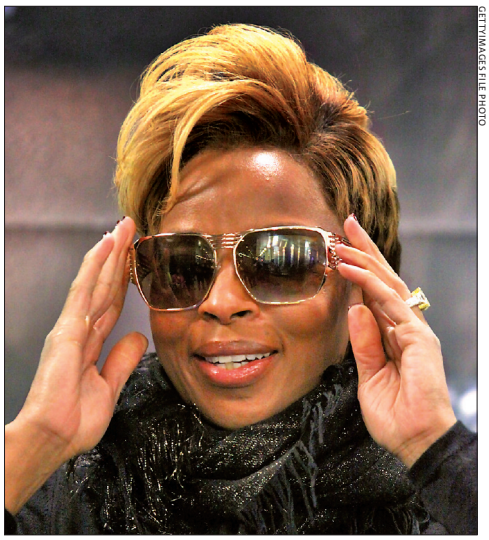
KANATA

KANATA 24
801 Earl Grey Dr., 613-599-1200

2012 (14A) SDDS Digital Fri-Thu 2:05-5:35-9:05
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Thu 11:15-11:45-1:40-2:10-4:05-4:35-6:45-7:15-9:05-9:35
Avatar (STC) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:30-11-12:15-2-2:30-4-5:30-6-7:30-9-9:45 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 11-2:30-6-9:45 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11-2:30-6-9:45 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 10:30-11-12:15-2-2:30-4-5:30-6-7:30-9-9:45
Avatar 3D (STC) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Thu 11:30-3:15-7:10:30
The Blind Side (PG) SDDS Digital Fri-Thu 10:55-1:50-4:40-7:35-10:25
Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:55-11:25-1:45-4:35-7:10-9:40 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 10:55-11:25-1:45-4:35-7:10-9:40
Disney's A Christmas Carol (STC) SDDS Digital Fri-Thu 11:40-2:10-4:45-7:20
Invictus (PG) SDDS Digital Fri-Wed 1-4:10-7:10-10:10 SDDS Digital Thu 1-4:10
It's Complicated (14A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Thu 10:30-11-1:20-1:50-4:15-4:45-7:15-7:45-10:05-10:35
Nine (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Thu 10:40-11:10-1:35-2:20-4:25-5:10-7:25-7:55-10:15-10:45
Old Dogs (G) SDDS Digital Fri-Thu 9:50
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Sun 9:55 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 9:55
The Princess and the Frog (G) SDDS Digital Fri-Thu 10:45-11:30-1:15-2:05-3:45-4:50-6:30-9
Sherlock Holmes (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Thu 11:35-2:30-5:30-8:30 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Thu 10:35-11:35-12:45-1:30-2:30-4-4:30-5:30-7:7:30-8:30-10-10:30
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05
Up in the Air (14A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Thu 10:50-11:20-1:30-2-4:20-4:50-7:05-7:35-9:50-10:20
The Young Victoria (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:40-2:25-5:7:40-10:20 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 11:40-2:25-5:7:40-10:20

Y and R star's surrogate has baby

With the help of a surrogate, soap star Michelle Stafford has become a mom. The Young and the Restless star welcomed daughter Natalia Scout Lee on Monday, her rep tells People. **POPEATER.COM**



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Mary J. Blige says performing her hits is like therapy.

Blige talks about being a crybaby

Mary J. Blige, who is known as the "queen of hip-hop soul," says she's kept her lofty title because she stays in tune with what younger audiences want to hear.

In a recent interview, Blige — who has won nine Grammy Awards since her debut in 1992 — talked about R&B music, recording a jazz album — and being a crybaby.

Q Would you say that you're a sensitive person?

A I would say that I'm a very sensitive person.

Q Are you crying about the same things that you cried about earlier in your career?

A I think I cry about different things now. I cry because I want to be better than this. I want to continue to grow so, you know, I have to give myself a break. I'm my worst critic. I'm the hardest person on me. I've been like that forever, but I've just learned to give myself a break so even now when I slip ... I don't want to hurt anyone. And I cry when I hurt people unintentionally.

Q How do you react when one of your songs is played on the radio?

A If I hear one of my old songs like Not Gon' Cry or My Life — the My Life album just always makes me stop and just cry, like just bawl. So call me a crybaby, whatever. I'm a woman, too, so sometimes it's just that time.

Q Is it hard to perform those emotional songs when, at this point, you're in a different place?

A For me performing Not Gon' Cry and I'm Goin' Down and My Life — it's like therapy again. I just love the way it makes me feel at the moment and get it out of my system, you know. Those are hurtful places and sometimes you got to revisit for the sake of other people.

Q How would you compare today's R&B music with the '90s music?

A Can I say '80s, too? There is no comparison because the music in the '90s and the '80s was just like, music. You had Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis who were on the radio. Michael Jackson and Quincy Jones everywhere, all over the place. Anita Baker, just so many amazing people. ... I'm not saying the music isn't beautiful now. It's just such a ... it's limited

Q How do you think your fashion style has evolved?

A I mean I've had some disasters, some trials, some errors, some disastrous hair moments and clothing moments, but that's due to the insecurity in me and not knowing what works for me.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cameron appeals to Chinese film industry

MOVIES Hollywood director James Cameron urged China to open its doors to more foreign films, arguing it would boost the local cinema industry after the WTO ruled Beijing was illegally restricting movie and other media imports.

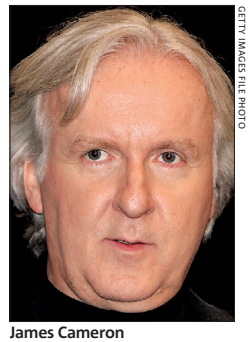
In Beijing to promote his latest sci-fi extravaganza, Avatar, Cameron said Wednesday that China's breakneck economic growth meant it no longer needed measures to protect its film industry.

"China's economy is expanding very, very rapidly. And I think the feeling right now is that perhaps it doesn't need to be protecting itself quite as much," Cameron, the director of blockbusters that include Terminator 2: Judgment Day and Titanic, told reporters. "Chinese filmmakers are very strong ... they're highly respected."

The Chinese government protects local films by limiting the number of film imports on a revenue-sharing basis to 20 a year, a quota that effectively limits Hollywood blockbusters to 20 slots annually.

These and other restrictions have been a key complaint by Western countries, who say that China's rapid rise as a trade power has been in part aided by unfair policies that boost sales of Chinese goods abroad while limiting imports into its market.

"I think that by opening the doors in China to other filmmakers, it will raise the entire film industry in China," Cameron said. "It will get people more excited, there will be more seats, more cinemas, more excitement about the cinema-going experience, which will also raise the Chinese filmmakers' ability to play their films."



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

James Cameron

On Monday, a World Trade Organization panel upheld a ruling in a case brought by the U.S. government that China was obstructing trade by forcing foreign suppliers to distribute movies, music and books through state-owned companies.

China expressed disappointment at the decision but gave no immediate sign whether it could keep trying to defend the controls.

The WTO case focused on complaints by groups representing music labels such as EMI and Sony Music Entertainment, publishers including McGraw Hill and Simon&Schuster and Hollywood studios Warner Bros., Disney, Paramount, Universal and 20th Century Fox. The groups say the Chinese rules cost them tens of millions of dollars each year in lost business opportunities.

China's box office is booming, but still comparatively small compared to the U.S. market. Government statistics show that revenues surged from 920 million yuan in 2003 to 4.3 billion yuan ($630 million) in 2008 — compared to $9.8 billion in the U.S. last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lewd messages land rapper conviction

COURTS A would-be rapper was convicted Tuesday of harassing Ashanti's mother with a flurry of dirty photos and lewd text messages about the Grammy Award-winning R&B star.

Devar Hurd shook his head as a Manhattan jury delivered its verdict after two days of deliberations, finding him guilty of stalking and aggravated harassment for messages the singer's mother called scary and disgusting.

Hurd, a sometime model and car salesman from Griffith, Indiana, said he thought the crude messages, photos of his genitals and a picture of the home where Ashanti's family lives were welcome.

The 31-year-old is being held without bail until his sentencing, set for Jan. 11. He faces up to two years in prison. His lawyer, Richard Verchick, left court without speaking to reporters and didn't immediately return a phone call afterward.

Ashanti's mother, Tina Douglas, told jurors she didn't know Hurd when he began calling her and leaving messages recounting bizarre and rambling sexual fantasies about the singer. Douglas manages her daughter's multiplatinum-selling career.

Douglas said she told Hurd to leave her alone but he went on to send dozens of revolting text messages and pictures.

"It was just disgusting and humiliating and extremely frightening," Douglas testified, adding that she pulled Ashanti out of a rehearsal of The Wiz after Hurd sent a message that mentioned seeing the singer's car outside the theatre.

Ashanti starred as Dorothy in an off-Broadway revival of the musical this summer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New year plans
Toast the New Year at Restaurant Eighteen at either an early seating ($90 per person) or late seating ($120 per person). Menu items include white fish caviar, lobster, and venison or prawn plus dessert. 18 York St., 613-244-1188. SHARI GOODMAN

Urban Foodie

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Octopus and pig cheeks, oh my

SHARI GOODMAN
OttawaUrbanFoodie@gmail.com

Navarra Restaurant
93 Murray St.
navarrarestaurant.com
613-241-5500

Rating: ●●●●
Dinner & drinks for 2: $100

Navarra, an unusually small restaurant with an open kitchen, is distinctive in Ottawa. Serving up Spanish-influenced food from a small menu makes it a good place to visit for a special occasion.

To start, we ordered the Confit of Octopus Memories of Galicia ($18). Having only tasted octopus once before, my partner was a little apprehensive. But in the hands of the chefs at this restaurant, he shouldn't have been. Tangled amongst spicy chorizo, mushrooms, and sitting atop silky parsnip purée, the octopus was treated well and exceeded all our expectations.

For the main, I ordered house-made Ricotta Gnocchi ($26) that was hand-rolled and doused with savoury Puttanesca tomato, toasted pine nuts for crunch, shaved parmesan, dried olives and chilies making a sharply-flavoured but balanced mouthful.

To spice things up and try something unique, my partner ordered the pig cheeks ($29). It was very rich. Imagine flavourful cubes of tender fat with thin ribbons of pork running through it. If you have the curiosity for this food, it is worth every bite!

SHARI GOODMAN/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Clockwise from top left: Hand Rolled Ricotta Gnocchi ($26), Roasted Pig Cheeks and Seared Garlic Prawn ($29) and Vanilla Bean Crème Brûlée ($9).

To finish, we indulged in the Vanilla Bean Crème Brûlée ($9) with passion fruit seed crunch. The crunch from the passion fruit was the perfect counterpoint to the creamy vanilla custard.

Navarra is a restaurant you will want to treat yourself to for an impeccable food adventure.

On the web

• Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes

Dining out

D'ARCY MCGEE'S
Enjoy two-pint Fridays between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Its steak sandwich is tasty and its sweet potato fries are worth a visit. 360 Moodie Dr. 613-596-4226.

BOMBAY BOLLYWOOD
Dine in or take out authentic Indian cuisine. Enjoy pakoras, samosas, tandoori and even spaghetti! 438 Preston St., 613-321-3544

–SHARI GOODMAN

In brief

CELEBRATE New Year's Eve at Le Café at the National Arts Centre with a five Course New Year's Eve Menu while the Johnny Vegas All-Star Band performs your favorite timeless classics. $95 per person. 613-594-5127

–SHARI GOODMAN

Global Peasant

• Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.

• Check out metronews.ca/globalpeasant for a recipe of Brown Rice Salmon Sushi!

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Hudson may become a mother once again
Jennifer Hudson is pregnant with her second child just four months after giving birth to baby son David Jr., according to U.S. tabloid reports. She and her fiancé David Otunga discovered the happy news on Dec. 10, according to Star magazine. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Winehouse tantrum infuriates dad

OH AMY, AMY, AMY Mitch Winehouse is furious with Amy over her alleged theatre attack, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 58-year-old taxi driver is very unhappy with his daughter, who was hauled into Bethnal Green police station in London yesterday to be questioned about the incident at a pantomime — a traditional musical comedy production, typically performed around Christmas — in Milton Keynes last week.

A source said: "I've never seen Mitch this angry, he is seething. He can't believe Amy would act so stupidly."

The 26-year-old singer reportedly shocked theatregoers when she hurled abuse at the cast of Cinderella, allegedly kicked and punched the front of house manager, and spent more than half an hour of the first act yelling expletives.

Winehouse — who was thought to have been drinking — was eventually dragged out of the theatre by her security staff. Mitch blames Blake Fielder-Civil, the singer's ex-husband who she recently reconciled with, for her wild behaviour

A source told the Daily Star newspaper: "Her dad thinks her current behaviour is due to spending time with Blake again.

"After just one day in Blake's presence, Amy reverted back to her wild ways. Amy had really changed over the last few months and was getting her life back on track."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Murphy's death raises drug speculations

THE PLOT THICKENS As the details of Brittany Murphy's are sorted out, some doctors are speculating that a combination of prescription drugs was behind the actress' heart attack earlier this week. "When you have a 32-year-old person dying suddenly, and especially a celebrity in Los Angeles, you can place your bet down that it's going prove to be a case of acute combined drug toxicity," Dr. Cyril Wecht tells the CBS Early Show. Meanwhile, Murphy's husband, Simon Monjack, was apparently left out of her will, as she wrote it before they were married, according to E! News. "She left everything to her mother," a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Summer wedding bells for Britney?

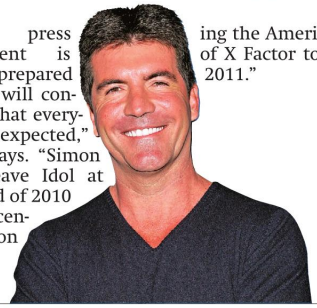
JUST REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME YOU PROPOSED, BRIT Britney Spears has been touring Beverly Hills jewelry stores shopping for engagement rings — only her boyfriend, Justin Trawick, doesn't know about it, according to In Touch Weekly. "Britney is ready to marry Jason," a source says "She wants to be with him 24/7." The source adds that Spears is hoping for a summer wedding.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Cowell set to bid Idol farewell?

NOW THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN WON'T GET THE CHANCE TO HAVE THEIR DREAMS CRUSHED Simon Cowell is set to leave American Idol behind, if his loose-lipped brother has anything to say about it. Tony Cowell, who produces a podcast called The Cowell Factor, recently dished on his brother's plans.

"A press statement is being prepared which will confirm what everybody expected," Tony says. "Simon will leave Idol at the end of 2010 to concentrate on bringing the American version of X Factor to U.S. TV in 2011."

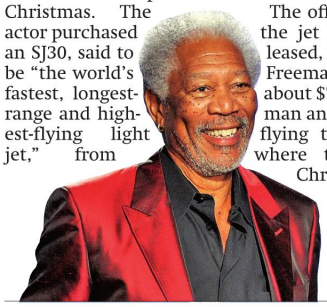


METRO WORLD NEWS

Freeman's jet set Christmas

MILE HIGH CLUB Avid pilot Morgan Freeman bought himself a new plane for Christmas. The actor purchased an SJ30, said to be "the world's fastest, longest-range and highest-flying light jet," from Emivest, an investment firm in Dubai, according to Gulf News.

The official price tag for the jet has not been released, but it is said that Freeman bought it for about $7 million US. Freeman and his niece will be flying the jet to Dubai, where they will spend Christmas.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Beyonce and Jay-Z try each other's names on for size

SAY MY NAME... OK, AND HIS NAME TOO Beyonce Knowles and Jay-Z are to change their names, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The couple, who married in April 2008, are to take on both of their respective surnames in order to keep the singer's parental line from dying out.

Jay-Z — whose real name is Shawn Carter — will now be known as Shawn Knowles-Carter, while Beyonce is to become Beyonce Knowles-Carter.

A source told the Daily Star newspaper: "They want to keep Knowles because Beyonce's parents didn't have any sons and they're keen to keep the name going strong, especially if they don't produce any children themselves."

Earlier this week, the Knowles family suffered a blow when it was announced that Beyonce's parents Tina and Mathew would be divorcing after 29 years of marriage.

In October, rumours surfaced that Mathew may have been unfaithful, with a paternity suit filed by Alexandra Wright claiming he was the father of her unborn child — an allegation he has denied.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kendra excited to make holidays special for baby

INTERESTING HOUSEHOLD Kendra Wilkinson can't wait to start her own "family traditions" now she is a wife and mother, femalefirst.co.uk says.

The reality TV star and former Playboy playmate is gearing up for the festive season and hopes to make the holiday as wonderful for her husband Hank Baskett and newborn son Henry Randall Baskett IV as her mother did when she was younger.

Kendra, 24, tweeted: "I can't wait to start my own family traditions and I'm so excited to make every Christmas memorable for little Hank like my mom did for me!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets

Sean Combs keeps it clean, Stephen Fry is disconnecting for the holidays, Diablo Cody knows how to keep herself motivated, and John Mayer is very strict about Christmas songs.

- @iamdiddy Takin a bath. Its a nightly ritual! Its like getting baptized!!!
- @stephenfry Far away from London now. Christmas has started. No phone reception. Hesitant internet. Cut off from the world for a week. Makes me happy.
- @diablocody I listen to "Maniac" from Flashdance all the time. It makes me type really fast
- @johncmayer I don't care what anyone says, holiday music was made to be played on the saxophone and that's that!!!

METRO WORLD NEWS

Jake mourns broken heart with guy pals

FAKE RELATIONSHIP BLUES Jake Gyllenhaal is licking his wounds after his split from Reese Witherspoon by reportedly vacationing with pals at the Post Ranch Inn in Big Sur, Calif., the very spot he planned to propose to his ex, according to Popeater.

"It's so sad watching his friends try to cheer him up in the infinity pool when you know it was Reese that was supposed to be next to him wearing a diamond ring," a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Aerosmith singer enters rehab

NO CHRISTMAS VACATION FOR HIM Aerosmith front-man Steven Tyler has entered rehab for painkiller addiction, he announced in a statement this week, after a difficult period that saw him quit the band, and then join them again in a bizarre media drama.

"I love Aerosmith; I love performing as the lead singer in Aerosmith. I am grateful for all of the support and love I am receiving and am committed to getting things taken care of," the 61-year-old singer says.

The doctor Tyler has been working with says that performance-related injuries from the past decade have left Tyler with chronic pain, and he will most likely need surgery on his feet and knees.

METRO WORLD NEWS

The Weather Network
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today
Mainly sunny
0° / -9°

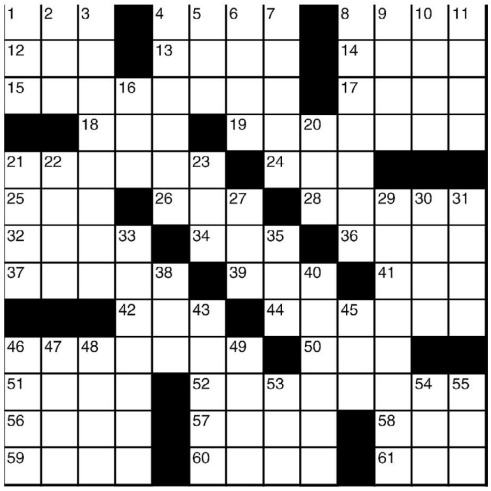
Friday
Partly cloudy
-6° / -8°

Saturday
10+cm of snow
2° / -3°

You have voted us #1 for best forecasts on TV. Thank you Canada!

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Org. that caught Dillinger
4 Carpet type
8 Criticism
12 Bradstreet partner
13 Franc replacement
14 Lasso
15 Helped
17 Do as you're told
18 Greek mountain
19 Cunning
21 Buxom
24 Nevertheless
25 Illustrations
26 Conger, e.g.
28 Bottom point
32 On in years
34 Victory
36 — Strauss jeans
37 Groucho's "tattooed lady"
39 .Spacecraft compartment
41 Enervate
42 Energy
44 Kind of inspiration
46 Do anew
50 Petrol
51 Finished
52 Withstood
56 Catchall abbr.
57 Pace
58 Blunder
59 Otherwise
60 Small salamanders
61 Rotation duration

DOWN

1 Med. watchdog grp.
2 Clear the tables
3 Put one's foot down
4 Elmo's street
5 Shack
6 Belligerent Olympian
7 Devout
8 Direct, as an attack
9 Earring site
10 Tarzan's clique
11 Singer Alicia
16 Altar affirmative
20 Longing
21 Canaanite idol
22 Excessive revelry
23 Evergreen type
27 Back talk
29 Stopped
30 Terrible guy?
31 Mature
33 Tie breaker?
35 Affirmative action
38 Help
40 0 through 9
43 Combine
45 Anatomical duct
46 "When in —, ..."
47 Satan's specialty
48 Disarray
49 Canadian flag symbol
53 Perch
54 Historic time
55 Parched

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

9			6					
4		5		3	7			8
	3	2	1					
						5	3	
5		3				7		6
	2	9						
					4	6	2	
7			3	9		1		5
					5			4

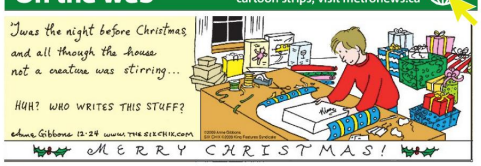
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

C	O	D		A	V	I	D		G	A	S	P		
A	B	A		N	I	N	E		A	P	S	E		
H	I	S		N	A	N	C	Y	D	R	E	W		
N	E	H	R	U			K	E	G					
			A	L	A	S		S	E	R	U	M		
D	R	E	W	U	P	O	N		T	O	R	E		
R	A	G		S	P	R	E	E		A	G	O		
A	T	O	M		S	T	A	N	D	R	E	W		
B	A	S	I	S		A	R	C	O					
			D	A	B			R	O	A	S	T		
D	R	E	W	C	A	R	E	Y		B	A	H		
I	O	T	A		W	I	M	P		U	S	E		
S	W	A	Y		L	O	U	T		T	H	Y		

1	4	5	9	6	8	3	7	2
3	7	9	1	2	5	4	6	8
2	6	8	3	7	4	1	9	5
7	9	2	5	4	3	6	8	1
5	8	4	6	1	2	7	3	9
6	3	1	8	9	7	5	2	4
9	2	6	7	5	1	8	4	3
4	5	3	2	8	6	9	1	7
8	1	7	4	3	9	2	5	6

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Lemon Garlic Mussels

Submitted by:
Tammy Roy, St. Thomas, ON

INGREDIENTS:
-2 Tablespoon olive oil
-1 Cup vidalia onion diced
-1 chili pepper, sliced in half
-1 bay leaf
-8 Clove garlic, minced
-1 Tablespoon fresh parsley
-1 Tablespoon tarragon, rough chopped
-1 Tablespoon oregano, rough chopped
-1 Tablespoon thyme, rough chopped
-1 lemon, juice of
-1/2 Cup white wine
-2 1/2 Pound mussels, scrubbed and discard any that are not alive
-3 Tablespoon butter
-fresh herbs (to garnish)
-sliced lemon (to garnish)

METHOD:
1. Pour olive oil to cover bottom of a large pan.
2. Add onions, chili pepper and garlic - saute until translucent.
3. Add herbs, lemon and wine.
4. Add mussels - cover and steam for 5 minutes until all are opened.
5. Remove mussels to a large bowl.
6. Keeping the juice in the pan, whisk in the butter and pour over the mussels.
7. Garnish with herbs and lemon.

SERVES 4
PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 10 MINUTES

20 minute SUPPER CLUB

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Just because it's the holiday season does not mean you should give up on your efforts to impress employers and other important people.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
With Pluto power on your side there is nothing you cannot do or possess. The only danger is you might be a bit too imperious and turn off people.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Look in the mirror and be honest about what you see. Everyone has faults, but not everyone has the ability to recognize them.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
It may be the case that you are expected to do something today that goes against the grain, that compromises your values. Value your principles.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
The planets indicate you have been working too hard and need a rest, but you are unlikely to get one until you change your attitude.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't waste time worrying that what you are planning may not be possible, just get on and do it and before you know it you'll be flying.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You will have to deal with someone you would prefer to avoid, someone whose attitude you find difficult to take.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You will be extraordinarily generous today but make sure it is only your friends who benefit from your munificence.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
You don't have to ask anyone's permission to make the major changes that you desire. On the contrary, they'll work out if you seize the initiative

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Your confidence will go through the roof between now and the new year. You'll feel as if you could take on the world and win – and you can.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
It's okay to be secretive, especially if what you are planning has the potential to upset those you live or work with.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Take the initiative in group activities and don't be afraid to tell others what they have been doing wrong.

This day in history

1955 – NORAD Tracks Santa for the first time in what will become an annual Christmas Eve tradition.
1968 – Apollo Program: The crew of Apollo 8 enters into orbit around the Moon, becoming the first humans to do so. They performed 10 lunar orbits and broadcast live TV pictures that became the famous Christmas Eve Broadcast, one of the most watched programs in history.
2003 – The Spanish police thwart an attempt by ETA to detonate 50 kg of explosives at 3:55 p.m. inside Madrid's busy Chamartín Station.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

TAKE A BREAK FROM WORK

Visit metronews.ca to watch metrotube of the day

LOW ON PRICE
HIGH ON FEATURES.

LT model shown with team Canada Edition Package††

HWY: 5.4L/100KM – 52 MPG
CITY: 8.0L/100KM – 35 MPG[Δ]

DARE TO COMPARE

	2010 CHEVROLET COBALT LT AUTO	2010 HYUNDAI ELANTRA L SEDAN	2010 HONDA CIVIC DX SEDAN
CASH PURCHASE PRICE	$15,995	$15,849***	$15,990***
AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION	Standard	Optional	Optional
HEAD CURTAIN SIDE IMPACT AIRBAGS	Standard	Not Available	Standard
AIR CONDITIONING	Standard	Optional	Optional
16" ALUMINUM WHEELS	Standard	15" Steel	15" Steel
REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY	Standard	Not Available	Not Available
POWER DOOR LOCKS	Standard	Standard	Not Available
HP / TORQUE	155/150	138/136	140/128
POWERTRAIN WARRANTY	5-year/160,000 km	5-year/100,000 km	5-year/100,000 km

WITH More than $3,000 in additional features than Hyundai or Honda**

**Value of additional features based on dealer pricing. Vehicle comparison is based on 2010 Cobalt LT (1AL69/1AL37 1SA + MX0), 2010 Civic DX Sedan (FA1E2AEX) and 2010 Elantra L Sedan (D4T). ***Vehicle specification and purchase price (including freight) according to the information available on the manufacturer's website at time of printing.

2010 CHEVROLET COBALT XFE

$13,645* CASH PURCHASE PRICE

NEW $83‡ AT 4.09%
BI-WEEKLY/84 MONTHS • $500 DOWN PAYMENT
FRIEGHT & TAXES NOT INCLUDED

INCLUDES $1,850 CASH CREDIT♦
INCLUDES $1,000 HOLIDAY BONUS**

OR STEP UP TO THE 2010 COBALT LT

$15,995* CASH PURCHASE PRICE

NEW $98‡ AT 4.09%
BI-WEEKLY/84 MONTHS • $500 DOWN PAYMENT
FRIEGHT & TAXES NOT INCLUDED

INCLUDES $3,350 CASH CREDIT♦
INCLUDES $1,000 HOLIDAY BONUS**

★★★★★ FIVE-STAR SAFETY RATING◊

HWY: 5.7L/100KM – 50 MPG
CITY: 7.9L/100KM – 36 MPG[Δ]

2009 CHEVROLET AVEO LS

$10,995* CASH PURCHASE PRICE

NEW $66‡ AT 4.09%
BI-WEEKLY/84 MONTHS • $500 DOWN PAYMENT
FRIEGHT & TAXES NOT INCLUDED

INCLUDES $2,850 CASH CREDIT♦
INCLUDES $1,000 HOLIDAY BONUS**

OR ASK ABOUT 0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS‡‡

60 DAY SATISFACTION GUARANTEE▼

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GM Canada — THE BEST COVERAGE IN CANADA
5 YEARS / 160,000 KM* (WHICHEVER COMES FIRST, EXCLUDES MEDIUM-DUTY TRUCKS. SEE DEALER FOR LIMITED WARRANTY DETAILS.)
• POWERTRAIN COMPONENT LIMITED WARRANTY
• ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
• COURTESY TRANSPORTATION

Redeem your GM Card earnings today.†

STUDENT BONUS CASH — GM pays the first 2 monthly payments*

CHEVROLET

For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. ♦$850/$2,350/$1,850 manufacturer to dealer delivery credit for 2010 Cobalt XFE/2010 Cobalt LT/2009 Aveo LS reflected in offers in this advertisement. Credit will impact the effective APR for finance customers. See your GM dealer for details. ♦♦$1,000 holiday bonus cash is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Offer available on all 2009/2010 Chevrolet, Pontiac Buick GMC, Cadillac and Hummer models excluding all Saturn and Saab models, Camaro, Express/Savana, Corvette ZR1 and Medium Duty Trucks. *Offer applies to the cash purchase of 2010 Chevrolet (Cobalt XFE Coupe or Sedan R7C/Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan R7C) and 2009 Chevrolet Aveo Sedan LS 1SM. Freight ($1,350/$1,350/$1,325), license, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and taxes are not included. Cash purchase price reflects discounts or other incentives that are only available when consumers opt for cash purchase offers. By selecting lease or finance offers consumers are foregoing such credit which will result in a higher effective interest rate. ‡Financing on approved GMAC credit only. 4.09% purchase financing for 84 months available on 2010 Chevrolet (Cobalt XFE Coupe or Sedan R7C/Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan R7C) and 2009 Chevrolet Aveo Sedan LS 1SM. Example: $10,000 at 4.09% for 84 months, the monthly payment is $137.10. Cost of borrowing is $1,516.40. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Freight and taxes are not included for bi-weekly payment. Bi-weekly payments based on a purchase price of $15,995 for 2010 Chevrolet Aveo Sedan LS 1SM. Example: $15,995 at 4.09% for 84 months, the bi-weekly payment is $83. Cost of borrowing is $2,436.80. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Bi-weekly payments based on a purchase price of $10,995 for 2009 Chevrolet Aveo Sedan LS 1SM. Example: $10,995 at 4.09% for 84 months, the bi-weekly payment is $66. Cost of borrowing is $1,675.20. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Offers may not apply to fleet customers. Offers may not be combined with other offers. See your dealer for complete details. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealer order or trade may be required. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. See your dealer for conditions and details. ΔBased on 2009 Natural Resources Canada Fuel Consumption Guide. 2010 ratings based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. Excludes other GM models. ◊US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program. For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. 2009 Chevrolet Aveo received a 5-star Rating for the driver and front passenger in the Frontal Crash Test. †† Chevrolet Cobalt LT Team Canada Edition, MSRP $19,525. ▽GMCL will pay the first two months' GMAC finance payments for finance terms up to 60 months only, paid up to a maximum monthly finance payment of $400 (tax included). Offer applicable to equal monthly payment finance agreements with GMAC and subject to GMAC credit approval. License, insurance, registration and administration fees not included and may be payable upon signing. Program not available to recipients of any previous GM student graduate offer. Visit gmstudentbonus.ca for more details. †Subject to Vehicle Redemption Allowances. Visit thegmcard.ca for more details including terms and conditions that apply to The GM Card Earnings and Redemption Allowance Program. ®Registered trade-mark of General Motors Corporation. Used under license. TD logo is a trade-mark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. ▼Return to between 30-60 days with less than 1,000km. Program applies to 2009 and 2010 models only; excludes demos, fleet, lease vehicles and medium duty trucks. Maximum damage allowed of $200. Vehicle usage fee and other restrictions apply. Not available with some other offers. Customer must take retail delivery by 01/11/10. See dealer or gm.ca for additional details.